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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Would you support another round of austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays in government?

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INSIDE



Cancer Victim

Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino has colon cancer, her daughter said Monday.

ASIA...Page 16

Torch Protest

Even before the Olympic flame was lit, a protester of China's human rights policies disrupted the solemn ceremony Monday.

WORLD...Page 17



Firstborn Bias

New research confirms that first-born children get more of parental time than others in the family.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Fitial agrees with US lawmakers on Labor report. PAGE 2

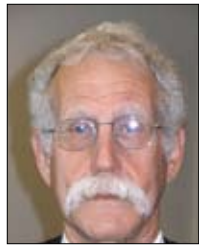
Norita implements major revamp at DPS. PAGE 3

Two lawyers thrown in jail

Yana, Atalig get 30 days in jail for civil contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo threw lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig in jail yesterday for not complying with his order to return the \$1.3 million in attorney's fees that the two received in the controversial Angel Malite estate probate.



Govendo

Govendo ordered Yana and Atalig to report to the Department of Corrections to serve their 30-day sentence for civil contempt. Govendo said the two may purge the contempt by posting \$1,285,500.

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Voting restriction on Article 12 violates US Constitution

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked the CNMI Election Commission to stop the ongoing registration of Northern Marianas descent, saying that allowing only those who are considered NMI descent to vote on the fate of Article 12 is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

See VOTING on Page 4

Businesses face cut in alien workers

By KATIE ZEJIMA
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Editor's Note: The following story was originally published on March 14, 2008, and illustrates one of the impacts of H visas, which is being considered for the CNMI.

HYANNIS, Mass.—

For years, William Zammer Jr. has relied on 100 seasonal foreign employees to turn down beds, boil lobsters and serve cocktails at the restaurants, golf course and inn he owns on Cape Cod and in nearby Plymouth.

This summer, however, the foreign workers will not be returning, and Mr.

Zammer, like other seasonal employers across the nation, is scrambling to find replacements.

"It's a major crisis," he said. "We're very short on work force. We'll be looking for replacements."

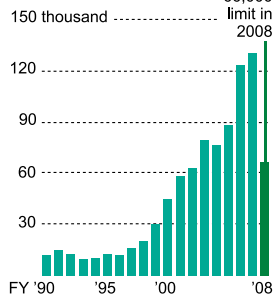
See BUSINESS on Page 4

Limiting Foreign Workers

The number of temporary visas issued to nonagricultural foreign workers will be limited to 66,000 in the 2008 fiscal year about half the number issued last year.

TEMPORARY WORK VISAS ISSUED

Nonagricultural



WHERE THE WORKERS WERE FROM

Countries with more than 1,000 workers in fiscal year 2007

Mexico	85,206
Jamaica	14,682
Guatemala	4,546
Philippines	2,652
Romania	2,640
South Africa	1,902
Britain	1,549
Australia	1,209
Costa Rica	1,179
Dominican Republic	1,146
Bulgaria	1,136

Sources: U.S. Department of State; Department of Homeland Security

THE NEW YORK TIMES



SHIRLEY'S CLEANS UP

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Six-year-old Mathew Robert Ong uses a rake to help his mother Rose and other volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop pick up trash along Quartermaster on Beach Road up to the San Jose intersection yesterday afternoon. The activity was part of Beautify CNMI's campaign "Adopt a Beach."

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Local

Fitial agrees with US lawmakers on Labor report

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration said yesterday that it agrees with the comments of two U.S. lawmakers that described as “poorly researched” and “fundamentally flawed” the U.S. Department of Labor study on the impact of the increased minimum wage on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“Although we believe the U.S. Labor report was a good starting point, the governor agrees with Sen. [Edward] Kennedy and Rep. [George] Miller

that federal minimum wage policy in American Samoa and the CNMI should be based on solid, objective, and impartial studies with meaningful and accurate data,” said press secretary Charles P. Reyes in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s spokesperson also said that the administration continues to call for further studies with more in-depth analysis on the impact the minimum wage increase has on the economies of the CNMI and American Samoa.

“Governor Fitial believes that federal minimum wage policy for the islands should be strongly data-driven and based on sound

economic analysis. We welcome more studies and believe any future wage increase should be based on several meaningful studies, not just one. And this is why we recommend a suspension of federal wage hikes until the CNMI and the U.S. Congress are satisfied that they are based on good data,” he added.

In a letter to U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao dated March 14, Miller and Kennedy said that the DOL study—mandated by Congress—does not adequately address minimum wage issues, was poorly researched and in many respects, was fundamentally flawed.

Miller is chairman of the

House Committee on Education and Labor, while Kennedy is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Quoting the two, *The Samoa News* said the report makes no attempt to evaluate the impact of the first 50-cent wage hike in 2007 or future increases on the living standards of working families in American Samoa and CNMI and as a result, the report entirely fails to address one of the main issues that Congress required DOL to assess, thereby

depriving residents of the two territories of the full information that they deserve.

Miller and Kennedy went on to say that the report “is decidedly one-sided,” citing that DOL interviewed a limited number of government officials, business representatives and industry lobbyists.

The two lawmakers also said that the report also failed to independently verify assertions and speculative statements made by business representatives and instead simply

recorded and repeated their claims, according to the letter.

The CNMI implemented the first of nine minimum wage hikes mandated by H.R. 2066 on July 24, 2007.

That 50-cent increase raised the CNMI minimum wage of \$3.05 an hour to \$3.55 an hour. It will increase 50 cents every year until the CNMI minimum wage equals the federal level of \$7.25 an hour by 2015.

The swift passage of the minimum wage hike bill came about because it was attached to the Iraq war budget bill as a rider.

Before 2007, the last time the CNMI’s minimum wage was increased was 11 years ago.

‘DPS personnel expect OT cut, no promotions’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Acting Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said yesterday that DPS personnel should not expect any promotions under the current financial condition of the government.

Norita said that, in fact they will be cutting or reducing overtime.

“I sat down with DPS employees last week and I was very clear to each everyone of them that I don’t see any light in regards to promotion at the end

of the tunnel,” he said.

Norita said there are some issues of promotion among certain personnel, but that happened before he was appointed acting commissioner.

He assured that promotion issues would not happen under his administration.

“I understand where they’re standing and the financial concerns they have. But I also told them we’re going to be cutting overtime. We will be reducing overtime,” Norita said.

“They need to be also responsible in the financial life that they live. They need to stay

within their means,” he said.

The commissioner said it should be a mutual agreement between the DPS administration and the employees.

“They need to understand that, one way or the other, overtime will be cut or reduced. One way or the other, there is no light at the end of the tunnel for any promotions,” he pointed out.

“If it occurs it is probably for a minimal amount, but it’s out of my hands. If there is an infusion of \$20 million somewhere in the system, I will be the first one to grab some of those money for DPS,” he added.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as “WIC.”

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program’s goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be “nutritionally at risk” by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.



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Major revamp at DPS

Manalili is back as Criminal Investigation Division chief

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety acting Commissioner Claudio K. Norita announced yesterday a major reorganization at the department.

Norita disclosed that the Criminal Investigation Bureau would be upgraded to a division level, while two sections—the Fiscal Affairs Section and the Legislative Liaison Section—would be created.

The commissioner appointed veteran crimebuster Maj. Edward H. Manalili to the revived Criminal Investigation Division and tapped assistant Fire chief Francis Taimanao to be the officer-in-charge of the Fiscal Affairs Section.

fairs Section.

Norita named Sgt. Tarsicio K. Olopai, the current chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, as officer-in-charge of the Legislative Liaison Section.

In a press briefing yesterday, the commissioner said he has been busy the past week reviewing and meeting with division commanders and section leaders in the department.

"This is the first step in our reorganization. It is a transitional step because it affects critical units in the department," he said.

Norita said that Manalili would be the officer-in-charge of the revived CID effective March 30. CID was renamed the Criminal Investigation Bureau in the early '90s.

As CID chief, Manalili will be responsible in providing leadership to all of the department's investigative units to include general crime, property crime, juvenile crime, white-collar crime, violent crime, domestic violence, special investigation, drug task force, and all federal and local task forces.

Norita expressed confidence that Manalili's vast criminal investigation experience in both federal and local law enforcement would significantly benefit the department in its effort to build an effective investigative agency.

Taimanao assumed the position of officer-in-charge of the Fiscal Affairs Section effective March 13. Norita explained that FAS would handle all administration and federal grants under DPS.

The commissioner said Taimanao would also be the

only point of contact for all Homeland Security grants and all other external agencies relating to federal grants.

Norita said he believes in Taimanao's leadership and management abilities in carrying out his additional responsibilities.

Regarding the Legislative Liaison Section, Norita said that Olopai will work closely with the CNMI Legislature in providing educational and information service to lawmakers with respect to specific DPS issues and concern.

Olopai becomes section OIC effective March 30.

Manalili said he appreciates Norita's trust and confidence in him as head of CID.

"I will be providing the leadership in the CID, basically trying to get everybody back into step and to move in one direction—the direction that the commissioner had set. We will be following that direction and bring DPS back to its feet," said Manalili, who used to serve as CIB chief.

Taimanao said he is fortunate that Norita trust him in the administration of federal grants.

"With the merger of the administration services for the department, that's kind of a big task, but I am willing to take the challenge," Taimanao said.

Olopai said he appreciates the commissioner believing in him.

"For me, [DPS] is a paramilitary organization. If they send you out there, you have to. It will be a challenging job for me," Olopai said.

Glad: I spent between \$10K to \$11K for mayor's trip to India

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

Businessman Antony Glad reported that he spent over \$11,000 for Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela's recent trip to India.

"I used my credit card when I purchased those tickets. I have it all in black and white so if OPA [Office of the Public Auditor] asks me for records, I have them. They're right here," Glad said.

Glad said he does not understand why the mayor would say that it was the Indian government that paid for his trip "when I was the one who initiated this entire thing."

He said it took about eight months to put together the mayor's trip to India.

"He changed his mind three times," Glad said.

He explained that making arrangements to go to India was not easy. "It was a dignitary trip that required security and all sorts of protocols," Glad said.

According to Glad, Tudela changed his mind three times, offering separate excuses until finally deciding that it would be better if the mayor from India would be come to Saipan first.

Mayor Amit Shah of Ahmedabad City visited Saipan, at his own expense, in early February to sign the historic sister-cities agreement with the island of Saipan. A week later, the mayor was invited to India to sign a second-sister cities agreement with the city of Nadia.

Glad said the mayor had informed him that his office does not have the funds available for the trip. Glad said he

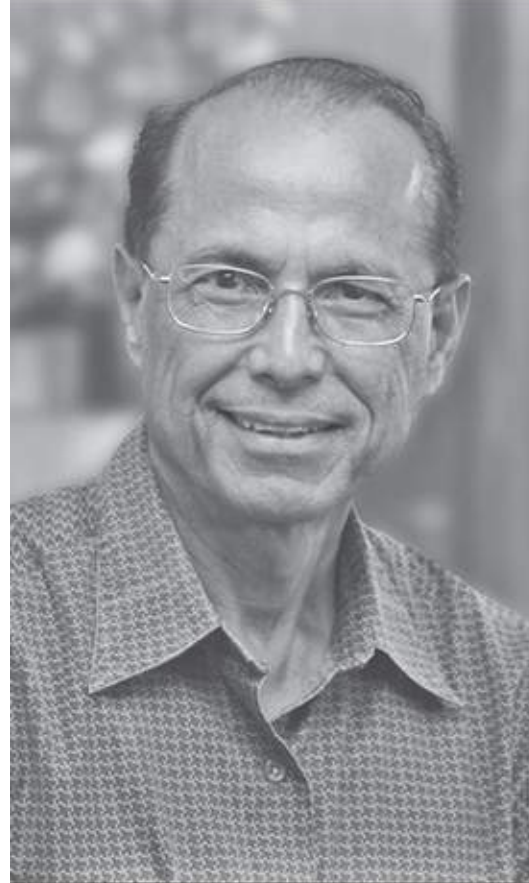
responded with, "Okay. I will spend for you."

"I gave him that courtesy because I didn't want my country to lose faith in me, especially with my business contacts. I have been promising India the mayor's trip for many times and he would always cancel so I just volunteered to go ahead and pay for it," Glad said.

He said that he has been living on Saipan for 23 years now.

"My kids grew up here. I have many locals who are my friends. So during the times that the CNMI is going through such hardship, I just wanted to help the community. It's 'give back' time. The island allowed me to stay, raise my family and was a very big part in helping me become a successful businessman," Glad said.

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4 robbery, burglary suspects taken to court

Four arrested robbery and burglary suspects were taken to the Superior Court yesterday.

Jesse Joseph Quitugua, Angel Chipwelong Ruben, Vince Camacho, and a

17-year-old male were brought to court for bail hearings.

The court ordered cash bail and set the schedule for preliminary and arraignment.

The Public Defender's Office was appointed to represent some of the defendants.

Saralu, an ex-convict wanted by police for allegedly staging a day-

light robbery at a poker arcade in Sadog Tasi on Good Friday, was arrested after a car chase early Sunday morning.

In the burglary case, Ruben, Cama-

cho, and the teenager, all ex-convicts, were arrested in connection with the burglary at Canton Restaurant in Garapan early Saturday morning. (*Ferdie dela Torre*)

BUSINESSES

From Page 1

ing at opening a little later, closing a little earlier, looking at how we do our menus."

Mr. Zammer is caught up in a Congressional standoff over immigration overhaul that is punishing employers who play by the rules and that, advocates of change say, could cost small companies billions in lost business.

In an effort to win support for a comprehensive immigration overhaul, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and its allies have blocked voting on legislation that would allow employers to rehire foreign seasonal nonagricultural workers independent of a 1991 quota.

As a result, the government is limited

to issuing the 66,000 seasonal work visas set when the visa program, known as H-2B, became law—33,000 for winter workers and 33,000 for summer workers. Last year, more than 120,000 foreign workers entered the country on H-2B visas.

For Cape Cod, the impact has been devastating. Employers will receive only 15 of the 5,000 visas they had requested, according to the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce.

"It's just ruthless for the Hispanic caucus to do this, use it as a bargaining chip," said Mr. Zammer, whose foreign workers—mostly from Jamaica and Eastern Europe—normally make up 25 percent of his staff. "We're working at finding new people. We have to. But it's extremely difficult, because you end up stealing from other people who

are also trying to get help."

Returning workers became exempt from the cap in 2005, when Congress passed the Save our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act, and President Bush signed it into law. The act expired in 2007, and Congress passed a one-year extension that was attached to the National Defense Authorization Act. The extension expired on Sept. 30, 2007, the end of the 2007 fiscal year.

Employers say that unless Congress acts soon, they will have to scale back operations, because the labor pool in many resort areas is not deep enough to provide new workers, and many people do not want seasonal jobs.

Patti Ann Moskwa, owner of the Yankee Rebel Tavern on Mackinac Island, Mich., plans to cut back dinner hours because she will be un-

derstaffed this summer. She said the 15 foreign workers who cooked and cleared tables at her restaurant were more than employees.

"They're like our family," Ms. Moskwa said. "You don't want to be the person to call these people and tell them the government won't let them back. It's a sad situation for us and the workers."

Republicans in Congress have resisted immigration overhaul, insisting that the focus be first on enforcing current laws. The Hispanic Caucus contends that a broad overhaul is needed and that legislation exempting returning foreign workers from the cap on visas should be part of it.

"I recognize that H-2B visa fixes are an important part of the immigration crisis," said Representative

Joe Baca, Democrat of California and chairman of the Hispanic Caucus. "But that should be just another check mark in the column as to why this Congress must take real action on immigration reform."

A bipartisan coalition of 182 members of Congress has co-sponsored measures sponsored by Representative Bart Stupak, Democrat of Michigan, and Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Democrat of Maryland, that would allow returning workers back.

"The H-2B visa program is being held hostage," said Representative Bill Delahunt, a Democrat who represents Cape Cod. "We're talking about a stimulus package, and yet we're putting at risk regional economies from the East Coast to the West Coast and many sections of the country in between."

TWO

From Page 1

The judge stressed that court orders are court orders that need to be followed.

He noted that Yana and Atalig made no efforts at all to try to return even just a bit of the \$1.3 million or to make a report as to where any of the money had gone.

After the hearing that lasted only about 30 minutes, two court marshals escorted Yana and Atalig to the marshals' office. After a few minutes, two summons police officers arrived at the marshal's office and transported the two lawyers to DOC.

Yana stated, among other things, that he was unaware that the court wanted them to at least try to return some of the amount.

Attorney Stephen Nutting, counsel for some Malite heirs, enumerated to the court the previous orders that Yana and Atalig allegedly never complied with.

Attorney F. Mathew Smith, counsel for Malite heir Angel Taman, told *Saipan Tribune* that Yana and Atalig had already been found in contempt and were just given a couple of months to rectify it.

"And they did nothing. That's why they were put in jail with the hope that that will compel them to actually do something," Smith said.

Smith said they are now hoping to find out where the money went and get it back to the court.

"All along, we're not against Atalig and Yana being paid. But it should be done properly," he pointed out.

On Jan. 15, 2008, Govendo issued an order requiring Atalig and Yana to return the attorneys' fees in the amount of \$1,138,500 for the civil case and \$150,000 for the first distribution in the probate case by Feb. 29, 2008.

Since the order was issued, neither Atalig nor Yana has returned the fees in full or in part.

On March 11, 2008, Govendo directed the two lawyers to show cause why the court should not take further action to coerce compliance

with the Nov. 6, 2007 order, where the court ordered them to return the attorneys fees by Dec. 7, 2007, and the Jan. 15, 2008 order, where the court again directed them to return the fees by Feb. 29, 2008.

The judge set the hearing for yesterday at 9am to provide the counsels an opportunity to be heard and argue their positions.

Govendo earlier stated that incarceration under a civil contempt order pending compliance with the court's order is within his authority and is a well-recognized method of coercing compliance with court orders.

In February 2008, Govendo granted the Malite heirs' petition to name Jimmy G. Sablan and Esther Fejeran

Sound as replacement for Malite estate administrator Jesus C. Tudela, who had been removed from the post.

The judge asked Sablan and Sound to immediately start getting surveyors for the remaining Malite lands and plan on how to divide them among the heirs.

Govendo kicked out Tudela as the estate administrator for mismanagement, after Tudela failed to object to an alleged inflated attorneys fees that reached a total of \$1.3 million. That fee was received by Tudela's lawyers, Atalig and Yana.

Govendo suspended Yana and Atalig from practicing law for their failure to return the fees. The Supreme Court, however, stopped the suspension and set an oral argument last March 11.

VOTING

From Page 1

In a letter to Commonwealth Elections Commission chairwoman Frances M. Sablan dated March 18, 2008, the CNMI's chief executive said he disagrees with the new voting registration procedure that seeks to implement the provisions of Article 18 (5)(c) of the CNMI Constitution and urged the commission to re-examine its approach to this problem.

Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan said, though, that he would continue to conduct the voter registration unless told otherwise by the courts or the commission.

The commission is currently conducting a registration process for all Northern Marianas descent in preparation for 2011, when CNMI voters go to the polls to vote whether to repeal, keep, or amend Article 12, which limits landownership in the CNMI exclusively to NMDs.

Article 18 (5)(c) says that only NMDs can vote on this issue. Fitial is saying that this is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

"I am persuaded that this proposed distinction between United States citizens—those swearing that they are of Northern Marianas descent and those who do not—violates the United States Constitution," he said.

Reasons for opposition

Fitial said his reasons for opposing this registration program are legal, political, and practical in nature.

Fitial, who based his decision on the legal opinion of Howard P. Willens, his special legal counsel, said that U.S. courts have emphasized on several occasions the right to vote as one of the most important rights of citizens under the U.S. Constitution, "and have invoked several constitutional provisions to prevent local governments from restricting this right in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner."

He pointed out that the relevant provisions of the U.S. Constitution are made applicable to the Commonwealth under Section 501 of the Covenant.

"I am obligated under my oath of office—as are all CNMI officials—to uphold the provisions of the U.S. Constitution applicable to the Commonwealth. For this reason alone, I believe that the Commission's registration program seeking to acquire information regarding the status of voters relating to their qualifications to own land under Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is inappropriate and should be discontinued," said Fitial in his letter to Sablan.

Willens, who analyzed Article 18 (5) (c) with the help of Professor Ronald D. Rotunda of George Mason University in Virginia, said that the Commonwealth is entitled to limit the right

to own land in the CNMI to persons considered Northern Marianas descent but the voting restrictions imposed by Article 12 (5)(c) would be invalidated by the courts if it were challenged under the 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Divisive

The governor also said that the new voting registration procedure is inherently divisive and limits the Commonwealth's sense of community and unity in dealing with the many problems it is currently facing.

"As is apparent, we are in the third year of a serious economic depression and the Legislature and my administration are doing our best to reach agreement about how we allocate limited government revenues to provide essential public services to our citizens," he said.

Fitial said the debate on who could vote on the fate of Article 12 would divide the island community at its most vulnerable time.

The governor also pointed out that the administrative difficulties in applying this requirement as a basis for determining eligibility to vote is another reason why the commission should not proceed with the voter registration program.

"I am sure that the commission considered the potential problems that will certainly develop if this registration program continues in place. Relatively few Commonwealth voters understand

the definition of Northern Marianas descent in Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution and the ease with which mistakes will be made as to which voters qualify and which do not."

Other issues

He said that even some members of the Commonwealth's business community are not qualified to be considered NMI descent because they happened to be in Guam in 1950 and became U.S. citizens at the time, thereby disqualifying them from ever achieving the TTPI citizenship, which is an element of the definition of Northern Marianas descent in Article 12.

Fitial also pointed out that many younger voters may no longer meet the 25 percent criterion stated in Article 12 because of intermarriages over the past two generations in their families.

Ditto for many well-established members of the Chamorro and Carolinian communities, who will have difficulty, if challenged, in identifying an ancestor who was either born or domiciled in the Northern Marianas by 1950 and either was, or later became, a TTPI citizen.

Fitial told Sablan that he has asked his lawyers to provide the commission with an appropriate legal opinion setting forth reasons for concluding that Article 18 (5)(c) violates the U.S. Constitution.

"I wish to assure the commission

that this administration's lawyers will represent and defend the commission if it elects to terminate this registration program and is sued as a result."

Urgent attention

CEC's Sablan that the commission is "very pleased" that the issue on the Article 18 (5)(c), or voter registration requirement, is being given the attention that that it so "urgently deserves."

Sablan said that the CEC and previous administrations have been "wrestling" with the issue since February 2000.

"That's eight years and three governors. But whether we like it or not, we cannot avoid what is in our Constitution unless the court tells the commission to do otherwise," Sablan said.

According to him, "personal feelings" toward the voter registration requirement issue does not count.

"Whether I disagree with him [Fitial] or not, we do not ignore our Constitution just because we don't like it," Sablan said.

He added that as executive director of the commission, he only takes orders and instructions from the commission.

"We will continue to conduct voter registration as per Article 18 (5) (c) unless the commission or the court instructs me to do otherwise," Sablan said.

Chairwoman Sablan could not be reached for comments as of press time. (*With Rianne Pangelinan-Brown*)

'CNMI on the same boat as all 50 states'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The high price of fuel and the economy in recession dominated the National Lieutenant Governors Association Winter Meeting held recently in Washington, D.C., according to Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez.

Villagomez, who attended the event at The Madison hotel from March 10 to March 13, said the Winter Meeting served as an eye-opener for him as it showed that the CNMI is not alone in feeling the pinch of higher pump prices and the sluggish economy.

"I just came back from a conference and those two were the major issues from all the states that were represented, they're having problems with the economy and the high cost of fuel. We are no different and I think they're doing the right thing because they are looking at ways of building their economy and looking at alternative energy. So we are on track. Just because we are out here in the Pacific, it's not to say we're not immune to the problems that's being faced in the U.S.," he said during an interview at the Covenant Day celebrations held at Minatchom Atdao Pavillion Monday.

The Fitial administration is currently looking at privatizing the government-run Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as well as looking at alternative energy to wean the islands from its dependence on fossil fuel-based sources.

"We should not be dissuaded with what is happening on our island because what's happening here is no different from what is happening in the U.S. The [National] Lieutenant Gov-

ernors [Association] conference was attended by all lieutenant governors of the U.S. and all of us have the same problems," added Villagomez.

Villagomez, who along with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced their re-elections bid during the Covenant Day celebration, said he is happy to team up once again with Fitial and thanked his family for supporting his decision to seek a second term.

"As a standard bearer, I can safely say [that]...more people [are] beginning to believe in what our administration is doing. Very, very seldom do they see the governor and lieutenant governor having the political will to do what is right. By sticking to this philosophy, I strongly believe that the Covenant Party, and the people of the Commonwealth for that matter, will support the lieutenant governor and I in continuing our mission to turn around the economy for the betterment of the people," he said.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association conducts a State Federal Meeting annually in Washington, D.C., in March. Participants meet with members of Congress and the administration to enhance intergovernmental relations. Topics focus on federal work that will affect the states.

The annual meeting is hosted each summer by a NLGA member. It averages an impact of more than \$360,000 to the state which hosts.

A Fall Meeting is held in November for the Executive Committee and newly elected members. The meeting focus is association business and professional training.

Engine problems knock out Saipan power

A series of mechanical and electrical problems at the three Saipan power plants knocked out power from several areas of the island yesterday.

"An exhaust valve problem on Engine No. 5 at Power Plant 1, an electrical problem at Power Plant 2 and a me-

chanical problem on Engine No. 5 at Power Plant 4 all required immediate repairs," said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in a statement issued yesterday.

CUC said the problems required the shutdown of the three engines, resulting in the inability

of the power plants to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet island demand. This required CUC to implement emergency load shedding.

While repair work continues, CUC will be implementing a rotating power outage schedule. *See sidebar.*

As soon as CUC is capable of providing sufficient electrical generation to meet the island demand, this schedule will longer be required. This schedule assumes that no additional engine problems occur during this emergency repair. *(Saipan Tribune)*

ROTATING OUTAGE SCHEDULE

7:00-9:00 Feeder 7—entire grid Lower Base industrial areas, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, and Matuis to Marpi. Hotels/Garments CPA (CPA will use own generation until advised)
Note: Upper MIHA, Lower China Town, Marina Heights to Gualo Rai was required to be taken offline at 8:30am.

9:00-11:00 Kiya 1: Lateral Joeten Commercial Complex:

CUC, Joeten Grocery, PHI Pharmacy, CNMI Tax & Revenue, Dept. of Public Lands, Kannat Tabla and the Stanford Hotel area
Feeder 1: Individual Streets Annex Condos & Marianas Heights Business Complex, Upper China Town, Upper MIHA in Garapan

11:00-1:00 Feeder 4: Second Partial

Capital Hill to Kagman
1:00-3:00 Feeder 2: Second Partial
Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church, south to San Jose intersection

3:00-5:00 Feeder 7—entire grid Lower Base industrial areas, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, and Matuis to Marpi.

5:00-7:00 Kiya 4: Second Partial
Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya area

7:00-9:00 Kiya 2: Second Partial
San Antonio Village, Afetnas, Koblerville, As Gonno, Coral Ocean Point

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

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38 Americorps members complete year of service

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-eight members of the first CNMI Americorps program have completed their year of service, which qualifies them to an Education Award of \$2,362.50 each.

The members are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. They are paid a monthly stipend and upon successful completion of 900 hours of service within a year.

Their Education Award can be used to attend qualified institutions of higher education, training or to repay qualified student loans.

The CNMI AmeriCorps members who received an Education Award include: Danica Acebedo, Vincent Aguon, Jerick Austria, Jennifer Benavente, Joyce Cabrera, Heather Ca-

macho, Rose Camacho, Clint Cepeda, Marjorie Daria, Dyenina Diaz, Jennifer Iriate, Diana Jucutan, Da Yong Ju, Janelle Lizama; Nina Manglona; Oliver Manglona; Jarlene Matagolai; Denise Mendiola.

Other members include: Kayla Mesngon; Jolene Naputi; Christine Pamfilio; Virginia Roque; Rogelio Sabangan; April Sablan; Jasmine Sapong; Tasi Faith Taitano; Carroll Tarkong; Mario Aspacio; Kristal Babauta; Willinamae Borja; Tikla Brown; Henry Chan; Mellany David; Hershel Joseph; Bianca Mendiola; Rachel Pagarao; Daisy Rojo; and Tammy San Nicolas.

In one year, the members and volunteers tutored over 4,800 students and logged over 27,000 hours of tutoring and service learning to the CNMI community.

Student assessment data substantiates the emphasis of improving reading skills of students in grades 1-8 who are reading in the lower quadrant. In some cases, the students tutored improved by as much as two to three grade levels.

The CNMI AmeriCorps program meets two of the Corporation Strategic Initiatives: ensuring a brighter future for all of America's youth and engaging students in numerous community activities.

According to CNMI/PSS Americorps director Geri Willis, the CNMI members and volunteers "have touched many lives within the CNMI as evidenced by teachers, parents, students and community member testimonials."

Willis says that as an AmeriCorps member or volunteer, "they have made a lasting im-

pression on the lives of people in the community."

"There are numerous stories about the impact the AmeriCorps members/volunteers are making within the CNMI on a daily basis that ensures a brighter future for the youth they tutor," she said.

The CNMI AmeriCorps program recruits students from public and private schools to tutor 1st-8th grade school students throughout Rota, Saipan and Tinian in reading and providing service learning activities for the community.

Each school site now has a designated AmeriCorps area complete with banner and other paraphernalia that have been designed and developed by the members and volunteers.

"They take ownership and pride in their 'home'. Members and volunteers have stated that

they've become more self-confident and that their self-esteem has grown," Willis said.

Individuals who are inter-

Bangladesh community marks country's Independence Day

The Bangladeshi community on Saipan is inviting the public to join in the celebration of their Independence Day at the Garapan Central Park. The ceremony will start at 6pm this evening.

Bangladeshi Cultural Group organizers Raki Bul Islam, Habib Ullah Badal, and Bip Lab Miah said that people of all nationalities are invited to this event.

"There will be food, music, inspirational speeches, just to name a few. We hope to see many people there," Islam said.

The Bangladesh Independence Day was formally declared on the eve of a nine-month-long war of Independence with Pakistan that led to the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign nation.

After many years of exploitation, both politically and economically, the Bengali national sentiments led to the

ested in becoming a member or volunteer for the school year 2008/09, and would like to obtain an application may contact Willis, or CNMI/PSS AmeriCorps administrative assistant Remi Sablan at 237-3294.

massive victory of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League in the Pakistan national elections of 1970.

The ruling oligarch in the then West Pakistan balked at having to give up the reigns of power to East Pakistanis. They stalled the installation of the newly elected parliament, and on the dark night of March 25, 1971, embarked on a genocidal reign of terror aimed at extinguishing all signs of Bengali nationalism.

In the face of this, the inevitable declaration of independence was proclaimed, and the fight was on for the people of Bangladesh to achieve independence.

The Bangladeshi community has been celebrating their Independence Day in the CNMI since 1995, during which close to 400 Bangladeshis come together to celebrate this event. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

CPA to host aviation workshop

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will be hosting the 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors' Workshop from March 31 to April 2, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The workshop is a three-day event with Federal Aviation Administration officials and dignitaries from all over the U.S. and Hawaii as well as members from airport communities throughout the Pacific islands.

This workshop is funded and sponsored by the FAA and CPA.

The theme for the workshop is "Planning for Aviation Growth and Infrastructure Development in Partnership with

Government and Industry".

Topics for discussion include air traffic, risk management systems, flight procedures and standards, as well as other airport related topics involving weather service, funding opportunities and airport emergency procedures.

Invited speakers will also provide reports on the much anticipated military buildup in Guam.

For information about the workshop contact the CPA Administration Office at 664-3500/01, fax number 234-5962 or email at cpa.admin@pticom.com. (CPA)

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SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/15 SAT	3/13 THU	3/3 MON	3/20 THU	3/4 TUE	3/8 SAT	3/21 FRI	3/17 MON	3/16 SUN	3/11 TUE	3/2 SUN	3/17 MON	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	V014	3/22 SAT	3/20 THU	3/10 MON	3/27 THU	3/11 TUE	3/15 SAT	3/28 FRI	3/24 MON	3/23 SUN	3/18 TUE	3/9 SUN	3/24 MON	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT
MELL SENOKO	V002	3/29 SAT	3/27 THU	3/17 MON	4/3 THU	3/18 TUE	3/22 SAT	4/4 FRI	3/31 MON	3/30 SUN	3/25 TUE	3/16 SUN	3/31 MON	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT
ASIAN ISLAND	V007	4/5 SAT	4/3 THU	3/24 MON	4/10 THU	3/25 TUE	3/29 SAT	4/11 FRI	4/7 MON	4/6 SUN	4/1 TUE	3/23 SUN	4/7 MON	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	V015	4/12 SAT	4/10 THU	3/31 MON	4/17 THU	4/1 TUE	4/5 SAT	4/18 FRI	4/14 MON	4/13 SUN	4/8 TUE	3/30 SUN	4/14 MON	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT
MELL SENOKO	V003	4/19 SAT	4/17 THU	4/7 MON	4/24 THU	4/8 TUE	4/12 SAT	4/25 FRI	4/21 MON	4/20 SUN	4/15 TUE	4/6 SUN	4/21 MON	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Guam	ETD Saipn	ETD Yan	ETD Koror	ETD GenSan	ETD Davao	ETD Cebu	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Manila	ETD Singapore
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	3/29 SAT	SKIP	4/2 WED	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/15 TUE	4/13 SUN
STADT HAMBURG	V014	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/9 WED	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/22 TUE	4/20 SUN
MELL SENOKO	V002	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/16 WED	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	4/29 TUE	4/27 SUN
ASIAN ISLAND	V007	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/23 WED	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/6 TUE	5/4 SUN
STADT HAMBURG	V015	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/26 SAT	SKIP	4/30 WED	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/13 TUE	5/11 SUN
MELL SENOKO	V003	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/7 WED	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/20 TUE	5/18 SUN

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UMDA applauds new indictment vs Pfaff

Charges brought by U.S. Attorney bolster firm's suit on Saipan

Lawyers for the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. brought to the CNMI Superior Court's attention yesterday a new criminal tax indictment filed against Robert Pfaff by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York on March 18.

In a statement issued yesterday, UMDA said that Pfaff's indictment, relating to his alleged global criminal activities, corroborates many of the key allegations made by UMDA against Pfaff and his co-defendants in a civil suit that was filed in Superior Court of the CNMI in April 2007.

Pfaff is already under criminal indictment and scheduled to go to trial later this year in federal court in New York on charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy in U.S. v. Stein—a case that has been characterized as the largest criminal inquiry into abusive tax shelters in the history of the United States.

As part of the conspiracy described in the new indictment, Pfaff and his co-conspirators are alleged to have defrauded UMDA of the "honest services" of former officers and directors and to have concealed and failed to disclosed their wrongful conduct to UMDA.

"UMDA is pleased that the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York is taking action to bring to justice individuals like Mr. Pfaff who betrayed the trust of the people of Micronesia by enriching themselves at the expense of UMDA shareholders," said Russell Snow, UMDA president and CEO. "UMDA will continue to cooperate with both the U.S. Attorney and CNMI governmental authorities to ensure that the truth comes out and that those responsible for damaging UMDA are held accountable for their actions."

UMDA is the "Saipan com-

pany" referred to in the new indictment that was victimized by Mr. Pfaff and his co-conspirators over a 10-year period.

Jose Lifofoi, chairman of the UMDA board of directors, added: "The UMDA Board was deceived and betrayed by Mr. Pfaff and his associates during a time when they were apparently engaged in lining their own pockets, rather than looking out for the best interests of UMDA."

"Unfortunately, our auditor and accountant during this period, Deloitte & Touche, failed to call these self-serving and illegal activities to our attention."

In April 2007 UMDA filed a civil suit against Deloitte & Touche, along with Pfaff, John Larson, and a number of their associates and corporate entities, in the CNMI Superior Court to recover tens of millions of dollars in damages (plus punitive damages) for harm done to the company over a 10-year period ending in 2006.

In the lawsuit Deloitte & Touche is accused of breaching its duties in the course of providing audit, tax, and consulting services to UMDA by failing to report numerous incidents of misconduct by Pfaff and others, as well as by engaging in conflicts

of interest by representing these same individuals in numerous transactions with the company.

A preliminary injunction has been granted against the defendants to preserve assets belonging to UMDA. A trial date has not yet been set.

Lifofoi said: "Over the last year, Russ Snow and I, along with the rest of the board, have been working diligently to put the company on a secure footing and to recover the money lost through illegal activities on the part of these insiders and the betrayal of trust by Deloitte & Touche. In addition to the lawsuit, one of the steps we've taken has

been to cancel UMDA shares held by the defendants, which has resulted in an increase in the ownership percentage for all other, innocent shareholders."

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan. Over the years, UMDA has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Yap and thousands of individuals Micronesians and their families.

In December 2007 UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of the Hotel Nikko Saipan, a 313-room luxury hotel in Saipan. (UMDA)

EMO warns of high surf yesterday

The CNMI Emergency Management Office issued a high surf advisory yesterday, warning the public of hazardous waters, particularly in north-facing reefs.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan Guam, EMO said that large north swells generated by a strong storm east of Japan will produce high surf on north facing reefs of the Mariana Islands. The high surf was expected to last through last night.

The high surf advisory was in effect until 6pm yesterday.

A high surf advisory means that hazardous surf and dangerous rip currents will affect north facing reefs. Expect hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet along north facing reefs during the advisory period. The surf is expected to begin subsiding Tuesday and fall below levels by Tuesday night.

EMO strongly advises the public—especially fishermen, tour operators, divers and swimmers—to stay out of the water, or avoid venturing exposed beaches, especially along north facing reefs where rip currents will be life-threatening, while the advisory is in effect. (EMO)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, DEQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated use of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

- 1. APPLICANT:** Anthony C. Guerrero, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950.
- 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Parts 3 and 10 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 26 No. 09, September 24, 2004).
- 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall is located inside the Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, at Latitude 15° 13' 35" N, Longitude 145° 43' 40" E, or approximately 1200 feet northwest of the Puerto Rico Dump, at a depth of 49 feet. This area is designated as Class A marine waters.
- 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to issue a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit authorizing the continued operation of the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharge of treated effluent to the Tanapag Harbor. The Sadog Tasi Plant has been designed and is presently operated to provide secondary treatment of municipal wastewater. The discharge of effluent from the Sadog Tasi plant has previously been authorized by different EPA NPDES permits and DEQ certifications, which the new permits are intended to replace.

CUC has also applied for, and DEQ is proposing to accept, a Zone of Mixing (ZOM) extending 49 feet in all directions from outfall diffuser structure, in which initial dilution (mixing) of the treated effluent with seawater is allowed to occur, and beyond which water quality criteria must be met. The ZOM will apply not apply to toxic substances, which must meet CNMI criteria at the point of discharge ("end of pipe").

- 5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The discharge of secondary treated wastewater into the Tanapag Harbor is an on-going activity which has been authorized by previous EPA and DEQ permits. Impacts include degradation of water quality to levels below that prescribed by the WQS within the immediate vicinity of the discharge, up and to the point defined by the proposed zone of mixing (ZOM). Beyond the ZOM, a certain degree of degradation is still expected to occur for some distance as the effluent experiences further mixing with the surrounding marine waters, although not to the point where water quality criteria are exceeded. However, projected water quality calculations performed by USEPA suggest that the criteria for enterococci bacteria will be exceeded for some distance beyond the allowable zone of mixing. Additionally, previous monitoring data suggests that water quality criteria for silver, copper, nickel and zinc, which are toxic to marine life, may also be violated within the immediate vicinity of the outfall, but not beyond the zone of mixing.

- 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** The primary mitigation measures for the discharge of treated effluent are proper treatment plant operation and maintenance, and requirements (prohibitions) regarding the types of wastes and substances that can be disposed of into the public sewer system. Under the USEPA permit, CUC will be required to properly operate the treatment system and to regulate users of the sewer system. The mostly likely course of action to mitigate for previously recorded exceedences of toxic metals (silver, copper, nickel and zinc) will be for CUC to enforce their prohibitions on customers who are more likely than others to discharge such substances, such as photo shops and medical facilities.

Because the discharge is expected to violate the criteria for enterococci bacteria even with the allowance for mixing, USEPA is proposing to issue an administrative order (AO) shortly after issuing the permit, which may require CUC to install and operate additional treatment facilities, such as disinfection equipment, to meet the permit limitations.

Written comments and inquires should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

Vessel runs aground in Guam waters

GUAM—The US Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified yesterday morning by the Guam Police Department that a boat approximately 50 feet in length had been sighted aground on the reef between Urunao Point and Double Reef. Life vests were sighted nearby on the beach.

Multiple local and federal

agencies are responding via land and sea to determine the circumstances surrounding the vessel grounding.

The Coast Guard's immediate priority is determining whether there may be people in the water in distress. The US Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 launched a helicopter to

search for survivors.

According to Captain William R. Marhoffer, commanding officer of US Coast Guard Sector Guam, "Our number one priority is safety of life at sea, and time is of the essence if there are people in the water. Once all persons have been accounted for, Coast Guard pollution investigators will work

with local agencies to determine whether the vessel poses an environmental hazard, and work together to examine options to remove the vessel from the reef."

The vessel is unidentified at this time. The identity and number of persons who were on the boat remains unknown. (USCG)

Applications being accepted for Combined Federal Campaign

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Federal Executive Board said yesterday that it is now accepting applications from tax-exempt charitable organizations, federations and Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities to participate in the 2008 Ha-

waii-Pacific Area Combined Federal Campaign, or CFC.

The CFC is an annual fundraising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace each fall and benefits non-profit charities. The purpose is to promote and

support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Applications are available

at www.honolulu-pacific.feb.gov or www.cfc-hawaii.org. Deadline to submit application is 4pm of March 31, Hawaii time.

For further information, call the CFC at 808-543-2233/2232 or e-mail nita@auw.org. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 26, 2001

CNMI leaders to meet with US officials

Local leaders will strengthen their relationship with the federal government in attempts to block the passage and implementation of a renewed proposal in the US Congress to strip the CNMI of its immigration and labor controls. Commonwealth officials are, in fact, planning to meet with newly-appointed officials in the Bush Administration who have direct oversight on American insular areas including the Northern Marianas.

Covenant Party vows to work for better economy, education

Over two thousand supporters of the newly-formed Covenant Party and standard bearer Benigno R. Fitia trooped to the Susupe Civic Center in Susupe Saturday night to witness the unveiling of the newest political group in the Commonwealth. Mr. Fitia officially introduced Public School System Commissioner Rita H. Inos as his running mate and partner to forward the party's long-term economic and education programs.

Borja wants excise tax relaxed

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jesse Borja promised to lift excise taxes on food items and other goods that are deemed necessities if he and his running mate, Representative Brigid Ichihara, are voted into office. "As soon as we are in office, we will examine the excise tax law to see how we can get rid of such tax on certain items," Mr. Borja said.

MARCH 26, 2002

Educational investments pouring

Three entities are seeking postsecondary licensure advice from the State Board of Regents amid plans to offer college-level and other educational courses in the Northern Marianas. The Joy Pacific International University, the American World University International Inc. and the CNMI-USA International Business and Professional College have signified interest to establish postsecondary institutions in the CNMI.

Agencies told: Stop excessive spending

The Commonwealth government urged all department heads to refrain from unnecessary spending in light of a recent executive order that reduced the quarterly allotments of all government agencies. In a memorandum issued to all agency heads, the Babauta Administration ordered the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance to closely monitor the overall financial situation of the government.

CUC mulls online billing

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is mulling the development of a website to promote online billing and payment. The website is eyed to accord CUC customers savings and convenience while reducing the utility firm's own operating expenses.

MARCH 26, 2003

'The Commonwealth under US sovereignty'

Ruling that the U.S. government is sovereign over the Commonwealth, the U.S. District Court yesterday denied the request of senators Ricardo S. Atalig and Jose M. Dela Cruz to dismiss the wire fraud charges against them on the ground that federal authorities violated the Covenant. In contrast to the senators' request, Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that the Covenant placed the CNMI under the sovereignty of the U.S. The magistrate cited a provision of the Covenant and a precedent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in supporting the statement.

\$50M energy plant to rise on Saipan

A Maryland-based corporation has offered to set up in the CNMI a \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant, touted to generate approximately 10 megawatts of net electrical power and three million gallons of water a day. The proposal has been offered at no cost to the CNMI. With the offer too attractive to pass up, Gov. Juan N. Babauta agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that would pave the way for the Sea Solar Power International to move forward with plans to erect an OTEC plant in the Commonwealth.

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Tickets still available for Shimabukuro concert

With just a day until the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands- and the Beautify CNMI-sponsored Jake Shimabukuro concert, only 300 general admission

seats remain for sale.

"Our first five rows of VIP seating sold out within four hours," said Angelo Villagomez of Beautify CNMI.

"General admission seating is

first-come, first-seated basis so concert goers still have a chance at great seats, plus there is really not a bad seat in the venue."

Doors of the Saipan World Resort outdoor theater open at

6pm tomorrow, March 27, 2008. The concert begins at 7pm with an opening performance by the Olomwaay Band.

A world-renowned ukulele virtuoso, Shimabukuro is known

for his lightning-fast fingers and revolutionary playing. His musical stylings range from jazz, blues, funk, classical, bluegrass, and folk to flamenco and rock.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children less than 12 years in age. Tickets are available for purchase at Century Hotel. Tickets will be sold at the door beginning at 5pm the day of the concert. For additional ticket information or to purchase tickets, call the PTI-sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462. Proceeds from the charity concert will be divided between HANMI and Beautify CNMI, both non-profit organizations.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established on Aug. 29, 1985,

after a group of hotel operators came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI. Through proactive community participation, HANMI is committed to fostering a better way of life for the people of the CNMI.

Beautify CNMI is a coalition of various government agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, private citizens and visitors. Its mission is to foster community pride through a comprehensive beautification campaign aimed at enhancing the beauty of the island environments and quality of life through public education on recycling, restoration, waste management, and enforcement of laws. (PR)

Iglesia ni Cristo marks 39th anniversary

GUAM—The religious community is invited to attend the 39th anniversary celebration of the Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ) on March 28 at the Deddo Sports Complex Gym, at 8pm.

The Iglesia Ni Cristo started to hold worship services on this island in 1960 when Guam was still undergoing rehabilitation and at its early stage of development. The Church was officially registered with the Government of Guam on March 17, 1969. The services were first held in a rented Quonset in Tamuning and the initial group consisted of 50 members.

The present house of worship in Harmon, an elegant

\$2.1 million edifice with a 600-seating capacity, was dedicated on March 19, 1994. This is now the spiritual house for the more than a thousand worshippers on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

In commemorating these momentous events, the locales of Harmon and Apra Heights will combine their efforts to host a Grand Evangelical Mission with Musical Presentation.

Minister Levie Galapon Jr. of Apra Heights will discuss the biblical reason why the Church believes in the imminent return of Jesus Christ. He will be citing verses in the Bible that highlight the signs of His Second Coming. He shall

also point out the events that will transpire in this world during the day that Christ comes.

Minister Jose Ventilacion of Harmon will discuss the proper preparation that should be done by everyone in order to be worthy of meeting the Lord on that glorious day. He will emphasize the things needed to be done by someone who is interested to receive the salvation promised by

the Savior himself.

After the biblical presentation, choir groups from Harmon shall render spiritual songs that shall inspire everyone to ponder on God's bountiful blessings to His Church here in Guam.

Worship services are open to members and non-members alike. For further inquiries, call 637-5538 or email us at: hufel-low@gmail.com, (PR)

Marriage Encounter team visits Saipan

The CNMI Marriage Encounter Ecclesial Team announced yesterday that the Ecclesial Couple for Region 12 arrived on Saipan yesterday and will be here until March 31, 2008.

Mike and Jeanne Emry are the regional leaders for the Marriage Encounter movement throughout California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI.

During their visit, the CNMI Marriage Encounter Community will be hosting two special events:

■ Marriage Encounter Community Gathering/Potluck on Friday, March 28, 6pm, at Julian and Marcia Calvo's home

in Obyan.

■ Marriage Encounter Community Enrichment Program on Saturday, March 29, 9am, at the San Antonio Church Social Hall

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on April 25-27, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. If you are interested in attending the next weekend, contact one of the following Weekend Coordinators: Frank & Joanne Guerrero, 234-6267 or joanne@pacificains.com; Vince & Hilma Castro, 287-2649 or hilmacastrome@gmail.com; or John & Vicky Mafnas, 285-8454 or vb-mafnas@yahoo.com. (PR)

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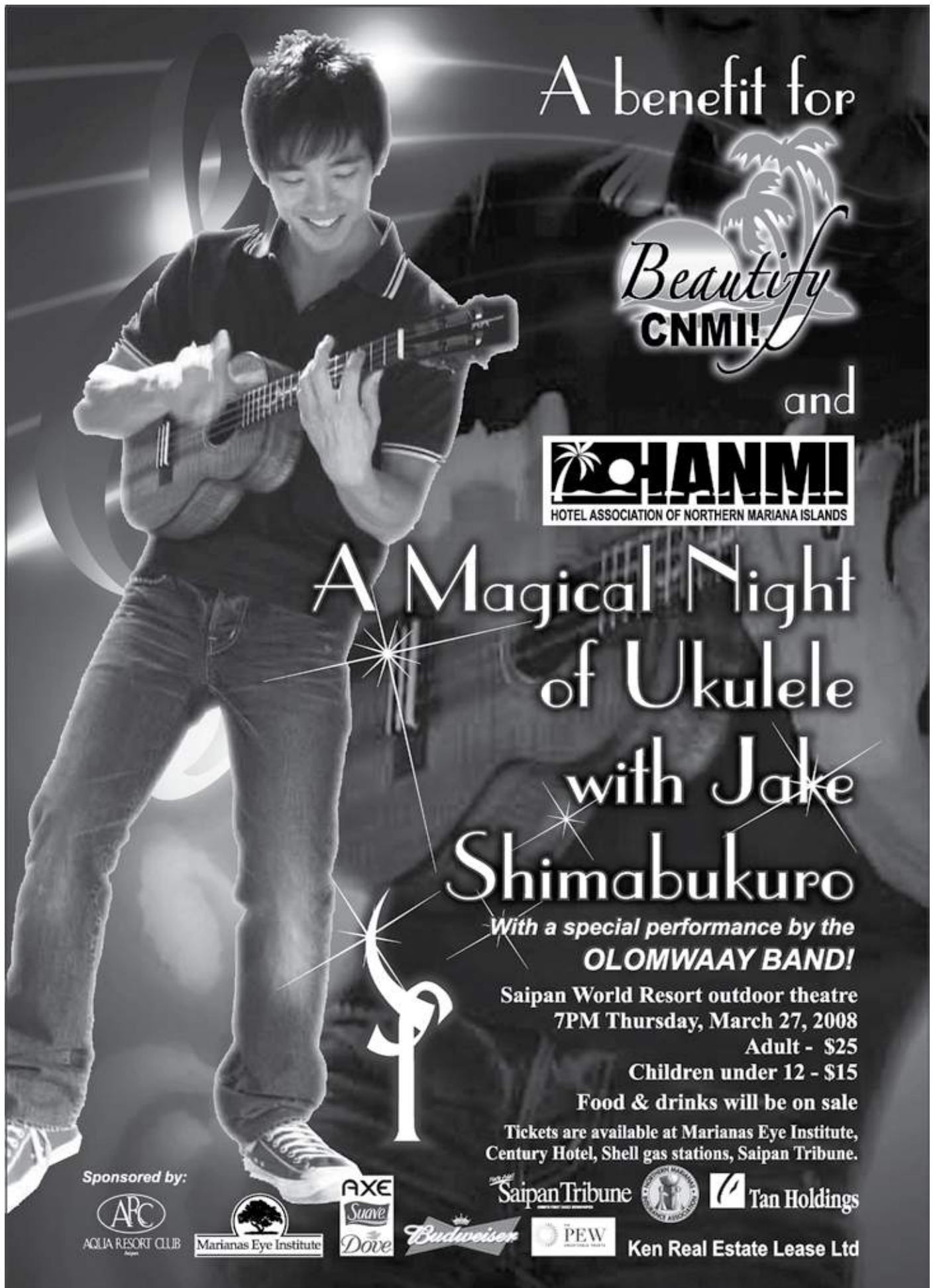
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EDITORIAL

The 'unfair' amputee

If you're sad because you have no running shoes, consider the case of Oscar Pistorius. The 21-year-old South African was born without fibulas and had his legs amputated below the knees at 11 months. In his teens Pistorius took up running on Cheetahs, bowed-blade carbon-fiber prosthetics manufactured by the Icelandic company Ossur. In recent years he has earned the monikers "Blade Runner" and "fastest man with no legs" by beating able-bodied competitors; he stands a decent chance of qualifying for the Olympics.

Yet Pistorius has been ruled ineligible for Olympic competition because his prosthetics offer him what the International Association of Athletics Federations calls "a demonstrable mechanical advantage (more than 30 percent) when compared with someone not using the blade." The association, which regulates international amateur athletics, tested Pistorius against a control group of able-bodied runners at the German Sport University in Cologne late last year and ruled in January that the blades violate a ban on any appliance "that incorporates springs, wheels or any other (advantageous) element" or "has the effect of increasing the dimension of a piece of equipment beyond the permitted maximum." Pistorius has appealed the ruling to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland; a decision is expected within the next few weeks.

The test results make fascinating reading. While the average energy loss for an ankle joint comes in at a whopping 41.4 percent, the Cheetahs cost Pistorius a mere 9.3 percent in lost energy. They also result in substantially less vertical motion and mechanical work in lifting the body—a phenomenon you can sort of observe watching clips of Pistorius in competition.

But there's a wonderful story of hope and ingenuity buried in this saga of grandly titled international bodies and absurdly technical evaluations. Who, after all, measures how much it hurts an amputee's stumps to run full-out on prostheses? And would these advantages also accrue to single-leg amputees such as California triathlete Sarah Reinertsen?

Few people have traditionally seemed so helpless, so worthy of pity, as the nonwalking disabled. Now a man with no legs is being disqualified from the Olympics because he can run too fast. That's more than just a news-of-the-weird story. It's a victory in humanity's oldest battle: the fight against our own physical limitations.

Anybody who wears eyeglasses or has a mouthful of filled cavities can appreciate technology's capacity to get the body up to average performance. The truly ambitious think about how engineering can make us better. Pistorius provides us a glimpse of a greater, less-bounded human future. That achievement may never be honored with gold, but who needs gold when you've got carbon fiber?

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Buy petroleum jelly stock

Sign me up for that \$3 kidney

Here is an article that deserves reviewing. Penned last summer in response to the film made by the Jesus Christ of the liberal left, Michael Moore, this piece takes a closer look at the reality of a socialist medical system.

That the best doctors leave such socialized systems like choco-holics finding themselves in a Jenny Craig meeting is proven the world over. They bail out in droves looking for greener pastures.

The real losers, of course, turn out to be the consumers. Medical consumers are a bit different than other retail buyers, however. When you need your appendix removed it is nice to know that the person removing it did not get his job by bidding the lowest price because he graduated 85th in a class of 87 from Lower Podunk U and that you are not forced to use his services, like it or not, should you finally reach the end of the waiting line to have it removed at all.

Why should we be interested? Well, if Billery and company are elected in 2008, you will find yourself neck deep in the swamp of socialized medicine whether you like it or not. That is the sine qua non of the Clinton camp and where they expect to reap their next Whitewatersque benefit. They are after putting billions into their personal pocket this time, not millions, and socialized medicine (meaning health care dished out by political favoritism) is the method they mean to use to get to that much desired result.

If you think the Clinton group has a chance to reach the presidency, you should probably begin to research what "universal health care" really means. Hint: It does not mean that the laws of economics and physics are hereby cancelled and that you will be receiving top notch health care by not paying for it. Guess again, it means you will be receiving 2nd rate health care or none at all and you will be paying far more than you pay now. Stand by with that jar of Vaseline should the Clintons make it into office.

Here is the article: (You may have forgotten this was an introduction after that somewhat lengthy rant).

Hidden costs of Canadian health care system

Chicago Sun Times

June 23, 2007

BY BRETT SKINNER

In a pivotal scene in Sicko, filmmaker Michael Moore marvels at Canada's single-payer health system, suggesting that it is a medical utopia. "It's really a fabulous system," explains one healthy Canadian, "for making sure that the least of us and the best of us are

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



taken care of."

But healthy people don't use much health care. If Moore had interviewed ill Canadians, he would have gotten a whole different story.

In reality, Canada's health care system is not the paradise Moore presents.

I should know: I live there.

Consider Canada's notorious waiting lists. In 1993, Canadians referred by their doctors to specialists waited an average of 9.3 weeks for treatment. By 2006, it was 17.8 weeks—almost twice what's considered clinically reasonable.

In the words of Canada's Supreme Court, "Access to a waiting list is not the same thing as access to health care." The court used that phrase when it struck down the single-payer system in one Canadian province in 2005. Yet somehow Moore missed this, the biggest story in Canadian health policy in the last 40 years.

Canada's long waits are partially caused by a shortage of doctors. Whereas the United States had 2.4 practicing physicians per 1,000 residents in 2004, Canada had only 2.1. That's a difference of 300 fewer doctors in a city of 1 million residents. New York's population is more than 8 million. Imagine what health care would be like in the Big Apple with 2,400 fewer physicians and you have some idea what it's like in Canada.

Over the last 10 years, about 10 percent of doctors trained in Canada decided to practice medicine in the United States. This is the result of low physician salaries, which are paid by the state. The average Canadian physician earns only 42 percent of what the average U.S. doctor takes home each year. Simply put, single-payer systems exploit medical labor. Any U.S. state that adopts a single-payer approach is going to lose doctors to other states.

Canada's single-payer system is also letting its hospitals rot. While the average U.S. hospital is only nine years old, the average hospital in Ontario, Canada's largest province, has been around for

See BUY on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Anatomy of an idea

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

In my travels around Saipan, and by virtue of this column, I'm often asked my opinion of various business ideas and passion-centered projects. Saipanpreneurs, Tinianpreneurs and Rotapreneurs of every background are coming up with ideas for websites, nightclubs, health products, food items, restaurants and various and sundry products and services.

In assessing the practicality and viability of these ideas, there are the usual considerations—*What's your Unique Selling Proposition (USP)? What are the overhead costs? What is the profit margin? Who will be your suppliers? What's your Internet strategy? Can you sell to customers overseas?*

In addition, in the unique "market in transition" that is the CNMI, there are several additional questions that need to be asked and answered. Among them are: *Who is it for? In other words, is there a sufficient market right now to support your business? Are you prepared to hang in there until things turn around?*

Who is it for?

Is your idea for locals, tourists, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Chinese or Americans? This question is particularly important if your idea is based on having a physical location here on island. It's a fact of life on Saipan that not all businesses or even parts of the island are frequented by the wide variety of national, ethnic and cultural groups on island. While there's nothing wrong with catering to a specific population, (that's the whole idea behind niche marketing), Saipan is a land in transition with fluctuating demographics. Many of these great ideas are actually limited in scope and appeal to a specific cultural group, which at present, may not have the consistent population, resources or interest to make it viable.

The Long Haul?

Given that things right now are in a state of transition, are you and your business equipped to survive for a few years while the market adjusts? Are you in it to make a quick buck, or is this a long-term idea?

Case in point

Let's take a look at one specific idea and some of the questions and concerns I have for assessing it. First a little background.

A few months ago, CNMI citizen, comedian, columnist, and cornea-curing clinician David Khorram launched an idea called SaipanThisWeek, envisioned as an online resource for the many weekly, monthly and annual events happening in the CNMI. (Yes, there's always something to do on Saipan!) After a strong start, interest appeared to wane after a few months, and, at present, the site is not currently being updated.

It's a great idea! It's not the first time that the need for such a resource has been expressed. Every day, someone, somewhere is asking, "Where can I find out what's going on this weekend?" or, "Was that this weekend? Darn! I missed it!"

Recently, Ruth Tighe, who will be fielding questions for the SaipanLiving.com category entitled "*Saipan-Living-for-formerly-landlocked-expats now-long-time-island-residents-with-a-constructively-critical-activist-bent, and-an-ocean-view,*" has picked up the banner and the idea. She emailed me a few days ago with her own suggestions for the resurrection of such a site.

[Begin email response:] Yes, there are readily available and free software options for making a site to which people are able to post their individual event information. However, here are a few thoughts:

1. *Who is the site for?* If for locals (you and me), does the Saipan local community look for events online? Is there enough of a demand for online info to (1.) Encourage people to look for the info, and (2.) Encourage event organizers to invest the time to post?

Is it for tourists? Probably not, unless the site is also available in other languages). If for tourists, a way of making such information accessible at the hotel front desks or through the tour companies might make more sense.

2. *Is there a better way?* Where might people be more comfortable (i.e. currently) getting such info? Is there a better, more intuitive way that people are currently seeking and/or finding such information?

- Hotel front desks,
- Daily broadcast on TV/radio
- Newspaper
- Word of mouth
- tour guides

The challenge SaipanThisWeek site may have faced was that it may have been asking people to change their habits, and thus, as you said, Ruth, required a long-term commitment in order to see that change through)

3. *Who will maintain it?* We'll assume that those who have events to publicize would have the necessary incentive to post the event listings, and to do so on a regular basis if that's required. But what about the task of monitoring and updating the site? There doesn't appear to be an adequate incentive for you and me to keep such a site going on a regular basis. (i.e. no money, no recognition, no free tickets to the events)

A CASE STUDY

A few years ago, I created a site called FreeSummerConcerts.com which is currently still active. Every year I search the websites of all the New York events (Central Park Summerstage, Lincoln Center, etc.) and compile the summer events in a database. People visit the site, click on the date they're interested in and access the events for that day. Every year, my mailing list grows, people use the site more frequently and refer their friends. Here are a few of the features and facts of that site that might help us create something similar for the CNMI.

1. Because of the way such events are structured in New York (with a lot of consistency and months, often years of pre-planning), I only have to compile the list one time, over about a two-three week period when the summer's listings are released—with only minor updates as new events are added later.

2. The duration of the site's popularity and usefulness is from May to September, so only a seasonal commitment on my part is required.

3. People can opt to visit the site, or have the event listings emailed to them each week.

4. The incentive for me, as owner/operator is a little bit of recognition as creator of the idea, and also a few hundred dollars in passive income as people click on the Google™ ads I have on the site.

This works stateside, I think, because the numbers support it (NY has a lot of people) and people there are more connected to their computers, and spend more time indoors during the colder months of the year. And, it works on my end because of the rewards built in. So, here's what I think...

Conclusion:

My best suggestion, therefore, to fill a similar need here on Saipan might be to encourage the local newspaper to have an events column as part of their paper and website. They'd be able to assign someone to maintain the listings on a regular/paid basis. It would add more value to the paper, and a newspaper is a more intuitive and likely place people look for such listings. They could provide a special *Saipan Tribune* events insert or supplement to tourists by placing them at the front desks of all the hotels.

(Of course, there are other factors of cost, and historical relationships between the tour companies, hotels and newspapers which I may not be aware of, but without such knowledge, that's my best

The rationing of medical procedures and drugs is another harmful result of Canada's system. In 2003, twice as many in-patient surgical procedures were performed in the United States per 1,000 residents compared to Canada.

And Canada's "universal" health-care system doesn't offer universal drug coverage. Only about one-third of the population is eligible for government drug programs in Canada -- the rest pay cash or have private insurance.

Canada's cost advantage is also an

illusion. True, Canada spends less per GDP on medical care than America—but so does Ethiopia. Such comparisons are meaningless without considering value for money. And compared to Americans, Canadians get relatively little in return for the money they spend. Canada's single-payer system does not cover many of the advanced medical treatments and technologies that are commonplace in America, and Canadians have access to fewer doctors, fewer treatments and fewer new drugs.

Yet in Canada, public spending on health care is still growing faster than the ability of the government to pay for it. As of 2006, public health spending in six out of 10 Canadian provinces was on pace to consume more than half of total revenue from all sources by the year 2020—without even taking into account the added pressures from an aging population. As of 2003, the growing unfunded liabilities for health care reached 46 percent of Canada's total economic output.

These are the hidden costs of Canada's health system, and they're far worse than the monetary price of U.S. medical care. But Michael Moore is not interested in such facts. He makes fictional films.

Quote of the week: What is wanted is not the will to believe, but the will to find out, which is the exact opposite.

—Bertrand Russell, philosopher, mathematician, author, Nobel laureate (1872-1970)

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

suggestion.) [End email response]

BUT WAIT, WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

Now, that doesn't mean the SaipanThisWeek website idea can't work on its own. It just means, in my opinion, that some incentive has to be built in in order to keep it going and to build on the timeliness and genius of David's idea. Assuming that current habits can be changed, and people will actually go online for event information, let's take a look at how such an incentive might be incorporated into the site.

Much like any blog or website that's maintained as a labor of love, a site like this can indeed be maintained long-term by someone with a passion for events who loves to provide information for people to enjoy themselves.

A site like this could be used to support an existing business. Think about it. Can it be a marketing tool for another business? An event planner, sound engineering consultant, sign maker, or any business that profits from events could use a site like this to attract customers for their services.

A site like this could be used to support an individual who becomes known as Saipan's event guru/critic, who travels around the island viewing and reviewing the events for exposure and publication, thereby providing personal fame and recognition, and perhaps free admission to these events!

Yes, it's always true that given the right mix of passion and creativity, any idea can see success. The same idea in someone else's hands can turn from dormant to dynamic! So take all the information here, but never lose sight of the fact that what makes you different in this world can make all the difference in the world!

P.S. If anyone wants to take over the reins of the SaipanThisWeek project, Dr. Khorram has offered use of the domain name along with the blog site. *Call 235-9090 or email him through www.Marianas-Eye.com.*

For more tips on acting on your ideas and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

SaipanLiving Update:

Visit the SaipanLiving.com website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top 10, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like on our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at questions@saipanliving.com. If you don't have an email account, you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

BUY

From Page 10






40 years.

And Canada's system limits the adoption of new technology. Among the 24 Western nations that guarantee access to health care, Canada ranks 13th in access to MRIs and 17th in access to CT scanners. The lack of access to medical technology contributes to longer waiting times for diagnostic tests.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	TShowers	▲83 ▼73

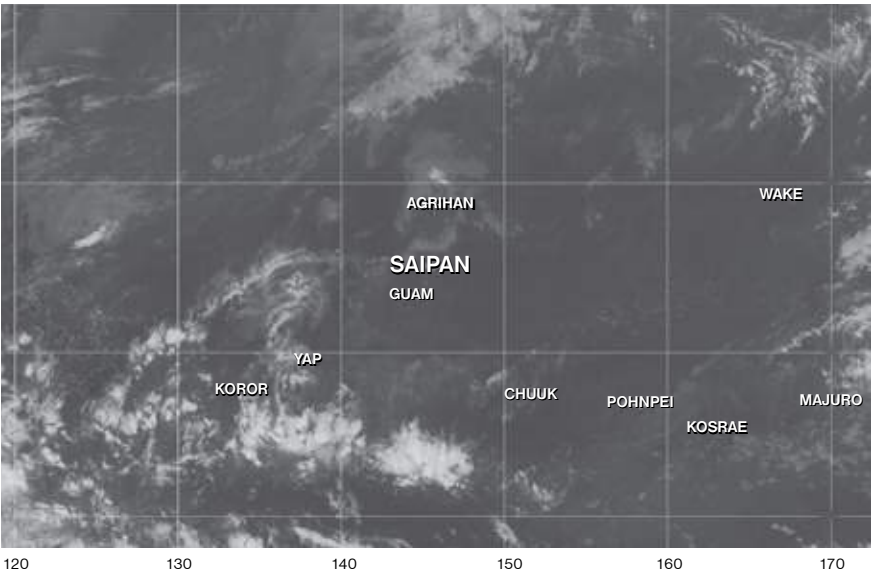
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲71 ▼59
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼37
Hong Kong	Showers	▲72 ▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼70
London	Showers	▲46 ▼37
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Manila	TShowers	▲91 ▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲62 ▼45
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼67
New York	Cloudy	▲56 ▼38
Osaka	Rain	▲53 ▼40
Paris	Rain	▲45 ▼37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼38
Rome	Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Salem	Rain	▲48 ▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲59 ▼44
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼36
Tokyo	Showers	▲56 ▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼44

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:20AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:45PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:30PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAR. 25, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

North of the Marianas, a cold front runs southwestward from near 25N145E to 20N137E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 17N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain extend along and up to 150 miles to the northwest of the cold front. A surface trough reaches northwestward from 17N147E to 22N145E. Scattered showers are found over the northern CNMI between 16N and 22N from 144E to 148E. A surface trough located east of Yap and Koror extends northward from EQ138E to 10N137E. Trade-wind convergence in the vicinity of the trough is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 5N135E to 3N148E. Another surface trough runs north-northeastward from 7N168E to just east of Wake Island at 20N171E. Convergence near and east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area enclosed by a line from 15N170E to 21N172E to 21N180 to 16N175E back to 15N170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Kosrae and Majuro between 2N and 5N from 163E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17AM	6:29PM
Thursday	6:16AM	6:29PM
Friday	6:15AM	6:29PM
Saturday	6:15AM	6:29PM
Sunday	6:14AM	6:29PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:11PM	9:33AM*
Thursday	11:04PM	10:22AM*
Friday	11:56PM	11:13AM*
Saturday	11:56PM**	11:13AM
Sunday	12:47AM	12:06PM

*Following Day **Preceding Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Update on fluoridation

In a Jan. 7, 2008, article in The American Dental Association News, an announcement was made that "a watershed moment in the history of fluoridation has occurred in the United States."

On Dec. 3, 2007, at 9am Pacific Standard Time, California's largest water agency completed efforts to fluoridate the water that reaches some 18 million residents in Southern California. This represents the single largest expansion of fluoridation in the U.S.

How did this happen? The California Dental Association worked with the California Fluoridation Workgroup, comprising a broad coalition of experts and stakeholders, to bring the issue to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Additionally, the California Dental Association provided scientific, educational, and financial support to assist the Water Agency to support and implement the plan.

"This milestone fluoridation initiative and tremendous public health success story was made possible through the persistent efforts and partnerships between dentistry, public health, and governmental agencies that have the potential to make a tangible difference in so many people's lives,"

said Dr Lindsey A. Robinson, chair of The American Dental Association Council on Access, Prevention, and Inter-professional Relations. Dr Robinson further stated that "this is a prime example of the many resources that organized dentistry has to offer in terms of promoting the oral health of the public."

So, what does all these mean to those of us in the CNMI? We all know we cannot drink the water here on island; we cannot lobby to fluoridate the public water supply. The ONLY option was to convince an owner of a local water company on island to purchase the necessary equipment to place a therapeutic amount of fluoride in the bottled water that they sell. Saipan Ice and Tony Pelligrino have made this dream come true.

There is nothing as heart-breaking than to witness small children brought into dental clinics on island with primary and permanent teeth decayed to the gum line. Most of these children are terrified of the dentist, frequently because parents have said very negative things to them about dentistry.

So, they walk around in pain, because the fear of a visit to the dentist trumps the pain they are experiencing. And many of them have difficulty chewing

their food. For many, the decay is so invasive around primary teeth that the buds of the permanent teeth are at high risk for a lifetime of damage and disease!

Believe me, the dental profession would like every child to reach maturity without a single cavity. That is why dentistry is willing to contribute large sums of money plus expertise to educate government agencies to fluoridate their water systems. This all started some 67 years ago. And to date, there is not a single case, on record, of a child being injured by the addition of fluoride to their drinking water.

Every day I beg parents to purchase the fluoridated water for the entire family. At ToothWorks we actually give bottled fluoridated water to our patients.

The addition of a therapeutic dosage (one part of fluoride to one million parts of water) is considered to be one of the 10 outstanding advances in Public Health medicine in the 20th century.

I learned last evening that the cost of the fluoridated bottled drinking water is exactly the same as the non-fluoridated water. There is no excuse, for those of you with small children, and even those up to 20, to not purchase this water for your entire family.

Everyone on Saipan must purchase bottled water. Give your children the gift of prevention. You cannot afford not to do this.

Alan Stuart Markoff, DDS, MBA, MAGD, FACD, FADI
Toothworks Dental Clinic
Chalan Kiya, Saipan

'Human just like us'

I would like to know what on Earth is going through the minds of all the anti-federalists and what or whoever brought racism back to the present day? Many years ago it was the whites vs. the blacks; now it is the Chamorros vs. the Filipinos. I am a young citizen of the CNMI who was born and raised here, I grew to love this island and call it my home. I am just so surprised and

shocked at how so much hatred and unlawful things are being done to people who are human just like us. Sorry, but standing on the side of the road yelling 'Go home Filipinos' is just so childish and unjust for a man who claims to seek for the better good of the CNMI!

Hally Berges
Marpi, Saipan

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

March 26, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 1. February 6, 2008
- IV. BANK GUARANTY MATTERS**
- V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO**
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



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!! NO HIDDEN COSTS !!

*** SAIPAN, CNMI - STARTS: SUNDAY - MARCH 30, 2008
Location: Pacific Island Club - Saipan

*** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - APRIL 7, 2008
Location: Holiday Resort - Guam

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100 TON / MASTER UP-GRADE COURSE & TEST - TOTAL \$250.00
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*** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - APRIL 14, 2008

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Europe Highlights




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France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

June 14-29, 2008

\$3,485⁰⁰


Twin sharing/per person


Includes

- Economy class Manila-Europe-Manila
- Breakfast and Dinner throughout
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Business

Guam group ships 1st container of cans

UPPER TUMON, Guam—The Guam Business Partners for Recycling under project “i-recycle” will be placing today the last bales of aluminum cans for recycling into a container van and prepare it for shipping to the U.S. mainland.

The cans will be transported by Matson Navigation Co. to the Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corp. in Los Angeles, Calif. The schools will receive the proceeds earned from the aluminum cans for their use.

Forty eight-cubic-yard bins have been placed islandwide since the first bin was placed

at St. John's School on Sept. 5, 2007. The participating schools include 11 private schools, Guam Community College and University of Guam, and 27 public schools, including all the high schools, middle schools and 16 elementary schools.

Two additional 3 cubic yard bins, provided by NAVFAC, have been placed at the Navy DODEA schools in order to allow them to participate in the program as well. Additionally, three public elementary schools are now participating in the program without an 8-cubic-yard bin.

Matson will be shipping the

20-foot container, which holds approximately 40,000 lbs. When the baled aluminum arrives at the West Coast, it will be purchased by Anheuser-Busch Recycling Corp., the largest aluminum recycler in the world, at the current market price. At this time the price for aluminum on the West Coast is \$.81/lb. On island we receive \$.25 to \$.30/lb.

The proceeds from each shipment will be received by the Guam Business Partners for Recycling, Inc., a non-profit organization, and the disbursements to the schools will be based on the volume

each school has generated.

The Guam Business Partners for Recycling comprises eight businesses that include Ambros Inc., Anheuser Busch Recycling Corp., Coca-Cola/ Foremost/ Subway/Glimpses, South Pacific Petroleum Corp., Matson Navigation Co., Perez Brothers Inc., Guahan Waste Control, and Ernst & Young.

Peggy Denney, doing business as Denney Environmental Consulting Services, is the program administrator of the “i-recycle” project.

The objective of the “i-recycle” program is to educate and pro-

mote the recycling of aluminum beverage containers on an island-wide level. The GBPR's plan is to utilize private and public schools as sites for the aluminum can bins, giving access for the entire community to recycle all over the island. The ultimate plan is to have local businesses, organizations and other entities get involved by adopting a school.

The Guam Business Partners for Recycling are in the process of soliciting sponsors for their Adopt-A-School program. Please contact Peggy Denney at 483-9415 on how you can get involved. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks jump on revised Bear Stearns deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street extended its big advance Monday as investors applauded a new agreement that will give Bear Stearns Cos. shareholders five times the payout that was set in a JPMorgan Chase & Co. buyout deal a week ago. Investors were also pleased by a stronger-than-expected housing report, and sent the Dow Jones industrial average up nearly 190 points while also selling bonds sharply lower. JPMorgan boosted investors' optimism by lifting its offer for Bear Stearns to \$10 per share from \$2. The revised plan is aimed at soothing Bear Stearns shareholders upset over JPMorgan's earlier offer, which was made at the behest of the Federal Reserve when Bear Stearns was near collapse. Bear Stearns shares jumped \$5.29, or 89 percent, to \$11.25, while JPMorgan rose 58 cents to \$46.55.

Home sales rose in February

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sales of existing homes increased unexpectedly in February after six months of decline, but private economists said it was too soon to say the prolonged slide in housing is coming to an end. The National Association of Realtors said sales of existing homes rose by 2.9 percent in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.03 million units. It marked the first sales increase since last July, but even with the gain sales were still 23.8 percent below where they were a year ago. Prices continued to slide. The median sales price for single-family homes and condominiums dropped to \$195,900, a fall of 8.2 percent from a year ago, the biggest slide in the current housing slump. The median price for just single-family homes was down 8.7 percent from a year ago, the biggest decline in four decades.

Justice Dept. approves XM-Sirius merger

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department on Monday approved Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s proposed \$5 billion buyout of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc., saying the deal was unlikely to lessen competition or harm consumers. The transaction was approved without conditions, despite opposition from consumer groups and an intense lobbying campaign by the land-based radio industry. The combination still requires approval from the Federal Communications Commission, which prohibited a merger when it first granted satellite radio operating licenses in 1997. The Justice Department, in a statement explaining its decision, said the combination of the companies won't hurt competition because the companies are not competing today.

JPMorgan raises Bear purchase price

NEW YORK (AP)—JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s higher offer for Bear Stearns on Monday gave the investment bank control of nearly 40 percent of its ailing rival, blunting the threat that angry shareholders could scuttle the deal.

The \$2.4 billion lifeline to rescue the investment house stands a strong chance of success—as- suaging investors unhappy with a \$2 per share offer by upping it to \$10 apiece. JPMorgan has faced an outcry among Bear

Stearns shareholders about the lowball offer, and faced the possibility that rival deals would begin to surface.

Most analysts said a higher bid was unlikely, but some bondholders have reportedly been buying the stock in order to ensure their right to vote for a deal and prevent a bankruptcy that would wipe them out. Bear Stearns' shares—which hit \$160 last year and still traded near \$80 earlier in the month—nearly doubled to \$11.25 on Monday.

GTA offers enhanced roaming to HK

TAMUNING, Guam—GTA TeleGuam announced Monday that it now offers enhanced roaming service to Hong Kong.

GTA MPULSE Wireless customers can now send and receive email, browse the Internet, and use Instant Messaging such as Google and Yahoo using their BlackBerry smartphones in Hong Kong.

Before, MPULSE Wireless just had voice roaming capability while traveling to the former British territory.

Andrew Gayle, vice president

and general manager of GTA MPULSE Wireless said, “We are pleased to announce enhanced roaming service to Hong Kong. GTA MPULSE Wireless subscribers are now able to use their BlackBerry smartphones to access data. Families going on vacation and business people traveling to Honk Kong can feel secure knowing that with GTA MPULSE Wireless and their BlackBerry devices, they are always on, always connected, islandwide and worldwide.”

BlackBerry was first launched

in 1999, and is now offered in more than 60 countries, with over 8 million subscribers worldwide.

With GTA MPULSE Wireless voice and data roaming service, GTA customers using BlackBerry devices are able to increase productivity and performance by being mobile and staying connected.

For more information about GTA's products and services, call GTA's “Always There” Call Center Hotline at 644-4GTA (4482) for more information. (GTA)



A driver fills his big rig with diesel fuel at a Sunoco gas station in Solon, Ohio on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Oil fall as dollar shows new strength

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices fell Monday, dropping closer to \$100 a barrel as a stronger dollar diminished the appeal of energy and other commodities futures.

Retail gas prices, meanwhile, fell further from recent records, while diesel prices dipped slightly.

Many investors view commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation and a falling dollar, so the greenback's advance Monday, which followed a stronger showing the past few trading days as well, made oil lose some of its recent allure.

A stronger dollar also makes oil more expensive to overseas investors.

Many analysts believe the dollar's decline was the primary reason oil surged to a record near \$112 a barrel early last week. But the effect tends to reverse when the dollar rises.

“Overall direction is still likely to be set by the course of the dollar,” said Addison Armstrong, director of exchange traded markets at TFS Energy Futures LLC in Stamford, Conn., in a research note.

Light, sweet crude for May

delivery fell 98 cents to settle at \$100.86 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

However, Monday's decline was far from decisive, and there were signs that some investors are willing to look beyond the dollar for future price direction. Prices alternated between gains and losses all day long as a tug of war took place between the speculators who sold as the dollar gained strength, and investors who bought on a view that the economy—and demand for oil and gasoline—may not be as weak as initially thought.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,359.900 Up 177.500 (+3.43%)	HONG KONG 12,750.36 Up 270.27 (+2.17%)	JAKARTA 2,413.248 Up 73.954 (+3.16%)
TOKYO 12,750.36 Up 270.27 (+2.17%)	K. LUMPUR 1,122.36 Up 23.34 (+2.03%)	MANILA 2,892.20 Up 24.70 (+0.86%)
SINGAPORE 2,998.51 Up 70.72 (+2.42%)	SEOUL 1,678.71 Up 23.41 (+1.41%)	BANGKOK 585.25 Up 4.62 (+0.80%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
 12,548.64
 +1.52%

NASDAQ
 2,326.75
 +68.64%

S&P
 1,349.88
 +20.37%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0969
British Pound	0.5025
Canadian Dollar	0.0159
Chinese Renmbi	7.0472
Euro	0.6431
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7817
Indian Rupee	40.145
Indonesian Rupiah	9.190
Japanese Yen	100.395
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2015
New Zealand Dollar	1.2473
Philippine Peso	41.595
Singapore Dollar	1.3858
South Korean Won	981
Swiss Franc	1.0129
Taiwan Dollar	30.13
Thailand Baht	31.57

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

McCain says US succeeding in Iraq

CHULAVISTA, Calif. (AP)—Fresh off his eighth Iraq visit, Sen. John McCain declared Monday that “we are succeeding” and said he wouldn’t change course—even as the

U.S. death toll rose to 4,000 and the war entered its sixth year.

To underscore his view of the stakes in Iraq, the certain Republican presidential nominee twice referenced a recent audio

tape from Osama bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader urged followers to join the al-Qaida fight in Iraq and called the country “the greatest opportunity and the biggest task.”

Remains of 2 US contractors recovered

DALLAS (AP)—The remains of two U.S. contractors kidnapped in Iraq more than a year ago have been recovered, the FBI said Monday, weeks after families of several long-missing men gained hope that they might be found alive.

Ronald Withrow of Roaring Springs, Texas, and John Roy Young of Kansas City, Mo., were among six Western contractors kidnapped separately. The disappearances received new attention this month when the severed fin-

gers of several men were sent to the U.S. military in Iraq.

Several relatives had taken the discovery of the fingers as a hopeful sign, including the father of Jonathon Cote, who remains missing.

“We feel very sad that this is how it turned out. We wish it turned out a better way,” Francis Cote said from his home in Getzville, N.Y., near Buffalo.

Cote said he had spoken to the families of Withrow and Young. He said that he was holding out

hope his son is still alive but that the discovery of the bodies dampened those hopes.

“Let me say this: I’m not as optimistic as I was in the past,” he said.

Withrow worked for JPI Worldwide when he was kidnapped in January 2007. Young worked for Crescent Security Group when he was kidnapped in November 2006. Withrow was among those whose severed fingers were sent; Young was not.

Indicted Iowa bank exec’s family killed

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A woman and her four children were found dead in their home Monday morning, and police later found a sixth body in a burning, wrecked van owned by the woman’s husband—a former bank executive who had been charged with embezzlement.

Iowa City police said they were all but certain that the body in the van was that of the husband, Steven Sueppel. A lockdown for city schools and an alert for the Uni-

versity of Iowa were lifted after the body was found.

Police Sgt. Troy Kelsay wouldn’t release the names of the victims, but he confirmed they were Sueppel’s wife and children, ages 3, 5, 7 and 10. Police said they were found in the unlocked house Monday morning after someone called dispatchers, said officers needed to respond to the home immediately and hung up.

Initial alerts said there had

been a shooting at the home, but Kelsay said further investigation shows the deaths could have been the result of some other trauma. Autopsies for the six bodies were scheduled for Thursday.

“I’m not certain that a firearm was ever involved. Nobody reported hearing any shots fired,” Kelsay said.

The family’s van crashed and caught fire on Interstate 80 about nine miles from the home. No other vehicles were involved.

“For the first time, I have seen Osama bin Laden and General (David) Petraeus in agreement, and, that is, a central battleground in the battle against al-Qaida is in Iraq today. And that’s what bin Laden was saying and that’s what General Petraeus is saying and that’s what I’m saying, my friends,” McCain said.

“And my Democrat opponents who want to pull out of Iraq refuse to understand

what’s being said and what’s happening—and that is the central battleground is Iraq in this struggle against radical Islamic extremism,” he added. McCain also said Democratic rivals Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton were naive and “dead wrong” to want to withdraw troops.

“We’re succeeding. I don’t care what anybody says. I’ve seen the facts on the ground,” the Arizona senator insisted a



McCain

day after a roadside bomb in Baghdad killed four U.S. soldiers and rockets pounded the U.S.-protected Green Zone there, and a wave of attacks left at least 61 Iraqis dead nationwide. The events transpired as bin Laden called on the people of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to “help in support of their mujahedeen brothers in Iraq, which is the greatest opportunity and the biggest task.”

Despite all that, McCain told reporters: “I don’t think I would change the strategy now unless General Petraeus recommended it. I think he’s trusted by the American people, the president and by me. And General Petraeus again showed me facts on the ground where the surge is succeeding.”



‘SHE MISSPOKE’

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., center, uses the back of campaign trip director Greg Hale, left, as she signs a shirt for a supporter while greeting a crowd in an overflow room as she campaigns at Montgomery Community College in Blue Bell, Pa., Monday, March 24, 2008. Hillary Rodham Clinton’s campaign said she “misspoke” last week when saying she had landed under sniper fire during a trip to Bosnia as first lady in March 1996. During a speech last Monday on Iraq, she said of the Bosnia trip: “I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base.” According to an Associated Press story at the time, Clinton was placed under no extraordinary risks on that trip.

Detroit mayor charged with perjury

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was charged with perjury and other offenses Monday—and got a stern lecture about the importance of telling the truth—after a trove of raunchy text messages contradicted his sworn denials of an affair with his chief aide.

The 37-year-old “Hip-Hop Mayor” who brought youth and vitality to the job in this struggling city of 900,000 could get up to 15 years in prison for perjury alone and would be automatically expelled from office if convicted.

Ignoring mounting demands that he step down, Kilpatrick said: “I look forward to com-

plete exoneration once all the facts have been brought forth. I will remain focused on moving this city forward.”

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy brought charges of perjury, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and misconduct against the popular but polarizing mayor. In announcing the charges, she delivered something of a civics lesson on the importance of telling the truth under oath.

“Some have suggested that the issues in this case are personal or private,” said Worthy, a Democrat like the mayor. “Our investigation has clearly shown that public dollars were used, people’s lives

were ruined, the justice system severely mocked and the public trust trampled on.”

She added: “This case is about as far from being a private matter as one can get.”

Kilpatrick’s former chief of staff, Christine Beatty, 37, who also denied under oath that she and Kilpatrick had an intimate relationship in 2002 and 2003, was charged with many of the same offenses. A call to her lawyer was not immediately returned.

Both the mayor and Beatty turned themselves in for booking in the afternoon. No trial date has been set.

The mayor’s lawyer, Dan Webb, said forcing Kilpatrick to resign now would punish him before he has had his day in court.



Kilpatrick

ACROSS THE NATION

NY Gov. Paterson says he used cocaine

NEW YORK (AP)—New York’s new governor, who disclosed last week that he and his wife both committed adultery several years ago, said Monday that he used cocaine in his 20s and smoked marijuana when he was younger. In reference to cocaine, Gov. David Paterson, 53, said in a television interview that he “tried it a couple of times” when he was “about 22 or 23.” “And marijuana probably when I was about 20,” he said on the NY1 cable news station. “I don’t think I touched marijuana since the ‘70s.” “More Americans have tried a lot more during that period of time and gone on to lead responsible lives and hopefully have lived their lives to their fullest,” he said. Paterson was lieutenant governor under Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned last week amid a prostitution scandal.

Pilot’s gun fires on US Airways flight

DENVER (AP)—A gun belonging to the pilot of a US Airways plane went off as the aircraft was on approach to land in North Carolina over the weekend, the first time a weapon issued under a federal program to arm pilots was fired, authorities said Monday. The “accidental discharge” Saturday aboard Flight 1536 from Denver to Charlotte did not endanger the aircraft or the 124 passengers, two pilots and three flight attendants aboard, said Greg Alter of the Federal Air Marshal Service. It is the first time a pilot’s weapon has been fired on a plane under a program created after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to allow pilots and others to use a firearm to defend against any act of air piracy or criminal violence, he said.

NASA cut means no roving for Mars rover

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scientists plan to put one of the twin Mars rovers to sleep and limit the activities of the other robot to fulfill a NASA order to cut \$4 million from the program’s budget, mission team members said Monday. The news comes amid belt-tightening at NASA headquarters, which is under pressure to cover cost overruns of a flagship Mars mission to land a Hummer-sized rover on the Red Planet next year. Both rovers were originally planned for three-month missions at a cost of \$820 million, but are now in their fourth year of exploration. It costs NASA about \$20 million annually to keep the rovers running. The latest directive from NASA to cut \$4 million means Spirit will be forced into hibernation in the coming weeks.

Engineer gets 24 1/2 years in prison

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A Chinese-born engineer convicted of conspiracy to export U.S. defense technology to China was sentenced Monday to 24 1/2 years in federal prison by a judge who said the defendant betrayed his adopted country. Chi Mak, 67, a naturalized U.S. citizen who worked on naval propulsion systems, was also convicted of acting as an unregistered foreign agent, attempting to violate export control laws and making false statements to the FBI. Federal prosecutors asked for 30 years, while Mak’s defense team proposed 10 years. Mak asked U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney for leniency before sentencing. Four of Mak’s relatives, including his wife, pleaded guilty last year to related offenses in exchange for leniency.

Asia

Ex-RP president Aquino has cancer

By PAUL ALEXANDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, who sparked a wave of pro-democracy movements around the world by leading a 1986 “people power” revolt, has colon cancer, her daughter said Monday.

Aquino, 75, was swept into power by the peaceful uprising that ousted late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, cementing her as an icon of democracy.

Usually dressed in her trademark yellow in public, she has remained active in social and political causes. Most recently, she has been attending rallies calling for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Kris Aquino, her voice breaking as she fought back tears, read a statement on live television that said her mother had gone in for tests after suffering from high blood pressure, difficulty breathing and fever during the Christmas and New Year holidays, then a persistent cough, loss of appetite and weight loss.

“The result showed our mother is suffering from cancer of the colon,” she said.

She said her family knows that its affairs are “part of our country’s history,” but asked that her mother “be accorded her privacy.”

“We ask you for your compassion and prayers for our mom’s recovery,” she said.

Support for Aquino came from all walks of life.

The presidential palace was saddened by the announcement and hopes for Aquino’s speedy recovery, Arroyo spokesman Ignacio Bunye said.

Roman Catholic bishops and political leaders across the Philippines offered prayers Tuesday for Aquino.

A Mass was scheduled later Tuesday in a Manila Catholic seminary, and the head of the influential Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, Angel Lagdameo, said he will send his personal assurances of prayer to the former leader.

“The whole country prays



Former Philippine President Corazon “Cory” Aquino talks to the media prior to a solemn mass to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the assassination of her husband, former opposition Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., in this Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007 file photo.

for her because at the crucial time in the country’s history, she stood for democracy and led the country to people power,” said a prominent Jesuit priest, Romeo Intengan.

After stepping down in 1992, Aquino has remained active in social and political causes. Most recently, she has been attending rallies calling for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over allegations of vote-rigging and corruption.

Arroyo joined prayers for Aquino’s recovery, as did ousted

President Joseph Estrada, according to his spokesman Margaux Salcedo.

Aquino had originally backed Arroyo when she herself was swept to power in the country’s second “people power” revolt that toppled Estrada in 2001.

A former housewife and political neophyte, Aquino reluctantly took over as Marcos’ main challenger after her husband, opposition leader Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., was gunned down at Manila’s airport upon returning from exile in 1983.

“I don’t know anything about the presidency,” the mother of five said in mid-1985, laughing off a seemingly ridiculous suggestion she run for president.

It turned out to be far from ridiculous. After a fierce campaign, voting was held Feb. 7, 1986, and journalists, foreign observers and church figures raised charges of massive fraud by Marcos.

The Commission on Elections ruled Marcos won by a slight majority; Aquino’s camp figured she lost 25 percent of her votes through fraud.

“The police were forced to fire warning shots, and dispersed the lawless mobsters,” Xinhua quoted the official as saying. The agency gave no details on whether any civilians were injured.

The state media report appeared to confirm that sympathy protests in support of monk-led demonstrations in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa have continued to spread in western China despite a massive mobilization of troops and police there.

Tibetan exiles say protest deaths near 140

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Tibetan government in exile says the death toll from the demonstrations in Tibet is about 140.

“While we have confirmed information on the death toll from the demonstrations so far, it has been extremely difficult to get the details,” the Dalai Lama’s exile government said in a message posted on its Web site Monday.

The group said the overall toll was “around 140,” and it listed

the names of 40 Tibetans killed in protests that started March 10.

Previously, the Dalai Lama’s government said 99 protesters died. China has put the death toll at 22.

Clashes between rioters and authorities in China’s western Sichuan province left one policeman dead and “several others” injured Monday, state media said, casting doubt on assurances by Chinese leaders that restive Tibetan areas had been brought under control.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday that “a group of perpetrators” had attacked armed policemen with knives and stones at 4:30 p.m. in Garze prefecture, according to local authorities. The officer, identified as Wang Guochuan, was killed instantly while several other policemen were wounded in what Xinhua characterized as “riots.”

A human rights group founded by exiled Tibetans said one monk was killed in the clash.

Army: 34 killed in Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Government troops and Tamil rebels fought scattered battles across northern Sri Lanka over two days, leaving 30 rebel fighters and four soldiers dead, the military said Monday.

Fighting between the two sides has escalated since the government pulled out of a long-ignored cease-fire with the rebels in January. The government promised swift victory over the Tamil Tigers, but many observers say the rebels are putting up far more resistance than the government expected.

It was not possible to get independent accounts of the clashes on Sunday and Monday because journalists are banned from the war zone. Both the government and the rebels often exaggerate their enemy’s casualties and underreport their own.

In the fighting Monday, army troops led an offensive against a rebel bunker line in the Mannar district, killing seven Tamil Tiger fighters, the military said in a statement.

That came a day after fighting killed 10 rebel fighters in the Vavuniya district south of the Tamil Tigers’ de facto state in the north, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Battles in the Welioya area killed six rebels and four soldiers. Six other rebels were killed in Mannar and another died in Jaffna, he said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiiah Ilanthirayan could not be reached for comment.

The Tamil Tigers have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils who have been marginalized for decades by successive governments run by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

Royalists win election in Bhutan

THIMPHU, Bhutan (AP)—Long known as a quirky holdout from modernity, the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan ended a century of absolute monarchy Monday by electing a staunch royalist as its first prime minister.

So it goes in Bhutan, possibly the first country in history where a king had to convince his people that democracy was a good idea.

Known by its people as the Land of the Thunder Dragon, Bhutan’s snowcapped peaks and mountainside monasteries have long intrigued Westerners in search of a Buddhist nirvana. But the kingdom is, in many ways, a strikingly conformist place where the outside world is viewed warily and self-promotion and confrontation are frowned upon.

Pakistani prime minister frees judges

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The deposed chief justice emerged from house arrest Monday after Pakistan’s new prime minister ordered police to pull back razor-wire barricades and release judges ousted last year by President Pervez Musharraf.

The judge’s appearance on the balcony of his Islamabad villa drew cheers from hundreds of flag-waving, drum-beating supporters and dramatically underlined how power is slipping away from a stalwart U.S. ally.

Early on Tuesday, two senior U.S. envoys arrived in Islamabad for talks with government officials and others.

Ifkhar Mohammed Chaudhry and his family had been confined to the house since

Just a few months ago, criticism of high officials was unimaginable to many here. Now they’re wondering what will become of their Precious Ruler as he gives up most of his power to politicians.

“There was much resistance when His Majesty told us that we must decide our future if Bhutan was to prosper,” said Karma Dorji, a 55-year-old civil servant waiting to vote in Thimphu, the capital.

That order came in late 2006, and Bhutan was already prospering. Its average annual of income of \$1,400 was twice neighboring India’s, and nearly all its people had access to schools and hospitals, a rare achievement in this corner of the world.

Musharraf declared a state of emergency in November and sacked 60 senior judges ahead of a Supreme Court ruling that could have invalidated his re-election as president.

“I have no words to thank you for the way you struggled for nearly five months for the enforcement of the rule of law and our constitution,” said a beaming Chaudhry as lawyers and opposition activists clapped and threw rose petals.

Just two hours earlier, parliament had elected a loyalist of slain ex-leader Benazir Bhutto as Pakistan’s new prime minister following a victory by Bhutto’s party in February elections that dealt a crushing defeat to Musharraf’s allies.

World

Blasts hit Comoros after invasion threat

ANJOUAN, Comoros (AP)—Explosions and gunfire resounded in the Indian Ocean nation of Comoros Tuesday as the government announced it was invading Anjouan to oust a renegade colonel who seized the key island last May.

Blasts were heard in 10-minute intervals beginning around dawn and appeared to grow louder as the morning wore on, while machine gun fire was sporadic, according to an Associated Press reporter on the scene. The source of the fire wasn't immediately apparent.

"Four hundred to 450 troops have landed in Anjouan," Defense Chief of Staff Mohamed Dosara said on the main island of Moroni. "They have taken the airport" with a small amount of resistance. He said there was no word yet on casualties.

Despite the announcement, there was no sign of government troops to reporters in the central part of the island. Two ships were seen earlier in the morning cruising along the coast toward the island's airport.

The Comoros, an archipelago of three main islands about 250 miles off Africa's southeast coast, has been caught up in a series of coups and political upheavals since gaining independence from France in 1975.

The latest came in May when Col. Mohamed Bacar and armed supporters took over Anjouan island, drawing increasingly strident warnings from the central government.

The explosions and gunfire drew hundreds of people into the streets of Anjouan, some of them chanting "Bacar is a dog."

On Monday, the country's president said the army would invade Anjouan and helicopters dropped leaflets over the island urging residents to avoid the pending fighting.



Greek actress Maria Nafpliotou, playing the role of a high priestess, left, gives an olive branch to the first Olympic relay torchbearer Alexandros Nikolaidis, right, during the flame-lighting ceremony for the Beijing 2008 Games in ancient Olympia, Greece, on Monday March 24, 2008. A Greek actress dressed as an ancient priestess successfully lit the flame using a mirror to harness the sun's rays

Al-Qaida No. 2 urges attacks on Israel, US

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Osama bin Laden's deputy urged Muslims on Monday to attack Jewish and American targets worldwide in retaliation for Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, intensifying an al-Qaida push to use Arab anger to rally support for the terror network.

The tape by Ayman al-Zawahri came just days after two messages from bin Laden, who called for a holy war on behalf of the Palestinians and warned of a "severe" reaction against Europe over the republishing of newspaper cartoons seen as insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The string of messages has raised fears that al-Qaida is plan-

ning new attacks in the West—or that it hopes to inspire sympathizers to carry out violence. The broader goal may be to show supporters that al-Qaida can open a new front against Israel.

Bin Laden and al-Zawahri have frequently referred to the Palestinian cause in past messages, usually in broader terms of liberating Jerusalem and denouncing Israeli violence.

Al-Qaida is not known to have a direct presence in Israel or the Palestinian territories, and its sympathizers often post messages on Islamic militant Web forums asking why the terror network has not attacked Israel on its soil or gotten more involved on the Palestinian front.

US blames rocket attacks on militias

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military blamed Iranian-backed Shiite militia factions on Monday for a spate of rocket attacks that struck the Green Zone and surrounding areas, a day after the overall U.S. death toll in the five-year conflict rose to 4,000.

The White House called the grim milestone "a sober moment" and said President Bush spends time every day thinking about those who have lost their lives in battle.

"He bears the responsibility for the decisions that he made," White House press secretary Dana Perino said Monday. "He also bears the responsibility to continue to

focus on succeeding."

The American deaths came Sunday, the same day rockets pounded the U.S.-protected Green Zone in Baghdad and a wave of attacks left at least 61 Iraqis dead nationwide.

Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, said the rockets fired into the Green Zone, also known as the International Zone, were Iranian-made and supplied by the Quds Force, an elite unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

The U.S. military has accused Iran of arming and funding Shiite extremists to fight American forces in Iraq. Iran denies the allegation.

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece (AP)—Even before the Olympic flame was lit Monday, a protester of China's human rights policies disrupted the solemn ceremony, foreshadowing the prospect of demonstrations throughout the 85,000-mile torch-relay route right up to the Beijing Games themselves.

Forecasts of clouds and rain had been considered the main threat to the pomp-filled torch-lighting. But in the end, while the sun sparked the flame to life, it was the protesters who turned the joyful bow to the Olympics' roots into a political statement about China's crackdown in Tibet and other rights issues.

Three men advocating press freedom evaded massive security and ran onto the field at the ceremony in Ancient Olympia before they were seized by police. Minutes later, a Tibetan woman covered in fake blood briefly blocked the path of the torch relay.

The incidents came after International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told The Associated Press in an interview that he was engaged in "silent diplomacy" with the Chinese but wouldn't intervene in politics to try to change their policies.

"We are discussing on a daily basis with Chinese authorities, including discussing these issues, while strictly respecting the sovereignty of China in its affairs," Rogge said.

Protests are bound to follow the torch throughout its 136-



Greek Police officers attempt to arrest a pro-Tibetan protester, with red paint covering her face, in the village of Ancient Olympia, southern Greece, Monday, March 24, 2008.

day route across five continents and 20 countries. China pledged strict security measures to ensure its segment of the relay won't be marred by protests.

Tibetan activists have already said they plan to demonstrate elsewhere on the route.

"Later we will do protests in London and Paris," said Tenzin Dorjee, a member of Students

for a Free Tibet who protested in Ancient Olympia.

Protests of China's rule turned violent March 14 in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, sparking waves of unrest in surrounding provinces. China reported a death toll of 22 from the violence, but Tibet's exiled government says 80 Tibetans were killed. Nineteen died in subsequent violence

in Gansu province, it said.

A rising chorus of international criticism and floated calls for a boycott have unnerved the Chinese leadership, which has turned up efforts to put its own version of the unrest before the international public.

China has blamed the riots on followers of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has urged China to start talks with him.

Edward Friedman, a China specialist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, said he expects Beijing to rally national pride by attacking its critics. Friedman said he expects China to put pressure on other countries to stay neutral and "to not do things to politicize the Olympics."

Luciano Barra, deputy CEO of the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, recalled how the torch relay in Italy was dogged by protesters opposed to construction of a rail tunnel. Organizers diverted the route at one stage to avoid the demonstrators.

"It makes me laugh compared to the current problem," Barra said.

Another potential flashpoint is the route through Tibet. The flame is due to be carried to the summit of Mount Everest in May and pass through Lhasa in June.

"The very idea that they will be able to parade the torch through Tibet after the crackdown is obscene given what's going on in Tibet," said Anne Holmes, acting director of the London-based Free Tibet campaign.

Campus

Study: 'Flutie Effect' more than a myth

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Turns out there's some basis for the long-held belief among college admissions officials that the better their schools' teams do in high-profile sporting events, the more applications they'll see.

Until recently, evidence about the "Flutie Effect"—coined when applications to Boston College jumped about 30 percent in the two years after quarterback Doug Flutie's Hail Mary pass beat Miami in 1984—had been mostly anecdotal.

So two researchers set out to quantify it, concluding after a broad study that winning the NCAA football or men's basketball title means a bump of about 8 percent, with smaller

following year. The champion is likely to see a 7 to 8 percent increase, but just making the 65-team field will net schools an average 1 percent bump.

■ Similarly, applications go up 7 to 8 percent at schools that win the national football championship, and schools that finish in the top 20 have a 2.5 percent gain.

There has been wide debate over the legitimacy of the Flutie Effect, especially when it comes to whether schools should pour money into athletics programs with the hope of reaping the benefits of a winning team.

Pope said that's certainly not what he is suggesting.

For George Mason University, just outside Washington, the

Schools that make it to the Sweet 16 in the men's basketball tournament see an average 3 percent boost in applications the following year. The champion is likely to see a 7 to 8 percent increase, but just making the 65-team field will net schools an average 1 percent bump.

increases the reward more modest success.

"Certainly college administrators have known about this for a while, but I think this study helps to pin down what the average effects are," said Jaren Pope, an assistant professor in applied economics at Virginia Tech who conducted the study with his brother Devin, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

The brothers compared information on freshman classes at 330 NCAA Division I schools with how the schools' teams fared from 1983 through 2002.

Among their conclusions in a paper that is to be published this year in *Southern Economic Journal*:

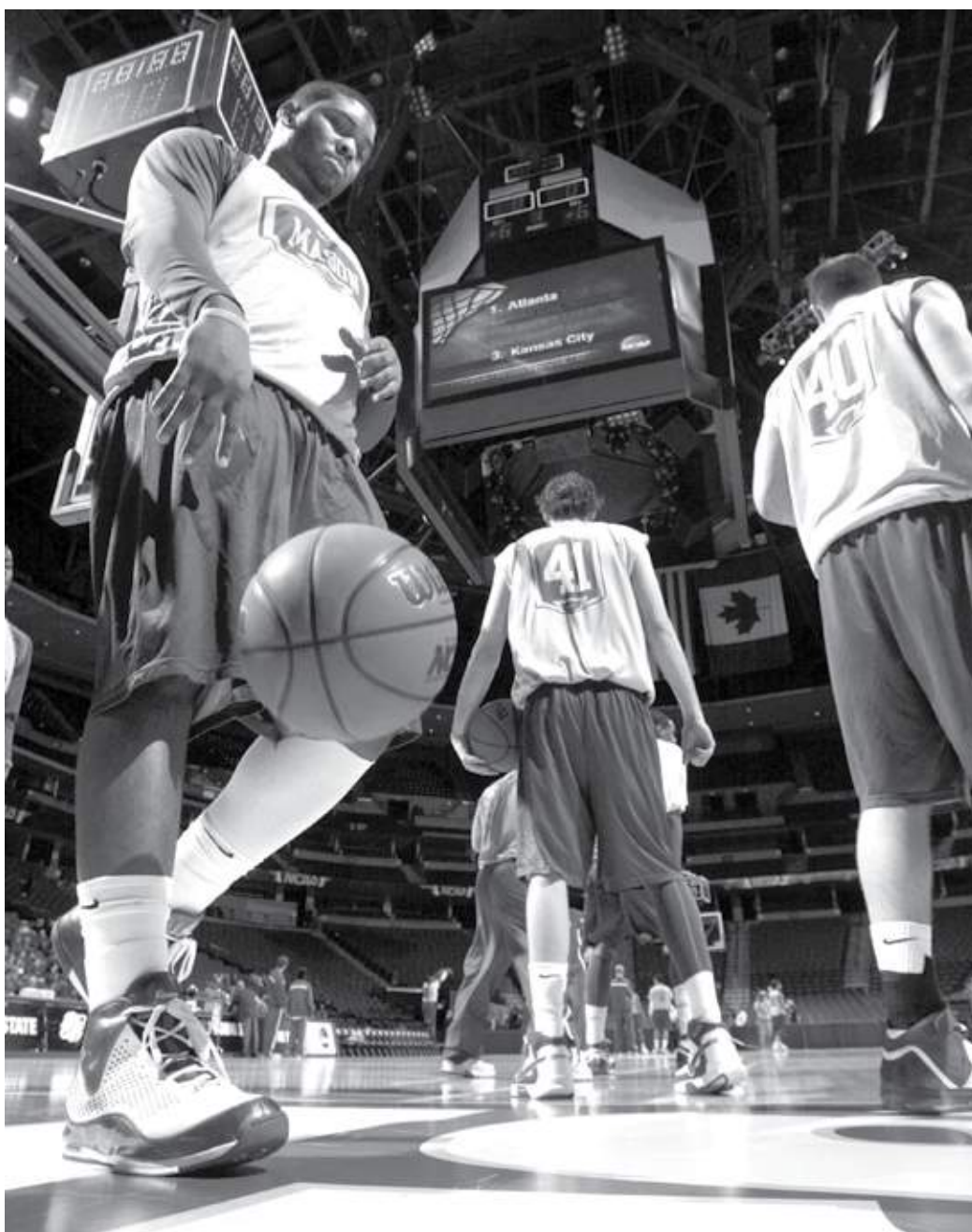
■ Schools that make it to the Sweet 16 in the men's basketball tournament see an average 3 percent boost in applications the

positive effects of its unlikely Final Four appearance two years ago were wide-reaching.

In addition to increases in fundraising, attendance at games and other benefits, freshman applications increased 22 percent the year after the team made its magical run. The percentage of out-of-state freshmen jumped from 17 percent to 25 percent, and admissions inquiries rose 350 percent, said Robert Baker, director of George Mason's Center for Sport Management who conducted a study called "The Business of Being Cinderella."

Baker also found that SAT scores went up by 25 points in the freshman class, and retention rates as freshmen moved into their sophomore year increased more than 2 percentage points.

"You will certainly have critics who say it would have happened anyway, but I think the



George Mason forward Darryl Monroe dribbles the ball during practice in Denver on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. George Mason will play Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament South Regional on Thursday in Denver.

general consensus is that it happened faster because of this and that it allowed this university to reach new heights more quickly," Baker said.

Gonzaga was virtually unknown in most parts of the country until it broke into the national tournament in the mid-'90s. The Zags have been in the

tournament every year since 1999, and during that time enrollment has grown from just over 4,500 to nearly 7,000, said Dale Goodwin, a university spokesman.

Inquiries have jumped from about 20,000 per year to 50,000, and the Spokane, Wash., school attracts students from eastern

states where it doesn't recruit.

"There's no other way they would have heard about Gonzaga," Goodwin said.

The study found that private schools saw even larger increases than public universities.

Drake made it to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1971 this year only to lose to

Western Kentucky on a last-second 3-pointer in overtime Friday. The shot is destined for the highlight reels, meaning the 5,000-student Des Moines, Iowa, school will get even more publicity than its one-and-out counterparts.

Tom Delahunt, Drake's vice president for admissions and financial aid, said the school already is at capacity, enrolling its largest class in 30 years last year. He still expects increased interest next year.

"We'll see an increase in high school sophomores and juniors that are now putting Drake on their list where they wouldn't have before, and they'll come and visit," Delahunt said. "We know if we can get them to come visit we have a better chance for them to enroll."

Pope and others admit that the windfall is short-lived, usually lasting only a few years after a team's tournament run. Experts say that's all the time that's needed.

"If the effect is one to three years, that's exactly in the zone where students are paying attention to what's going on," said Steven Goodman, an educational consultant in Washington, D.C., and author of "College Admissions Together: It Takes a Family."

"Not that many 9-year-olds are thinking about college admissions, but there are plenty of 15-year-olds who are following the NCAA tournament."

Experts agree that any bump caused by a tournament appearance can't sustain a school, but it gives them valuable national exposure that most couldn't buy. Out of thousands of schools in the country, Goodman said most students apply to seven to 10.

"No one student can know everything about every college, so universities vie for the attention of students, and sports is one of the many ways that schools do that," he said.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Junior High Mock Trial set

The CNMI Humanities Council will be hosting a Junior High Mock Trial on Saturday, March 29, 9am to noon at the U.S. District Court chamber, Horiguchi Building, Garapan.

Six junior high school teams will participate in a non-competitive trial presided over by Rep. Joseph Camacho (R-Saipan).

This program, started by the council two years ago, is intended to introduce junior high school students to the mock trial program in an enjoyable format to prepare them for the competitive mock trial program that they will encounter in high school.

Petition to graduate deadline extended

The Northern Marianas College has extended the deadline for the submission of petitions to graduate for Spring 2008. The new deadline is March 28, 2008. Any questions or concerns regarding the Spring 2008 graduation can be addressed to Rosaline Cepeda, Acting Director of the Office of Admissions and Records, at 234-5498 ext 1540 or email rosalinec@nmcnet.edu.

MHS Class of '88 meeting

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 are reminded that there will be a meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito behind Saipan International School. All

classmates are encourage to attend this important meeting.

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

English placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be administering the English Placement Tests on the following dates:

■ April 2, 2008, 9am - 12pm, Room: D-1

■ April 4, 2008, 4pm - 7pm, Room: D-1

Bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am - 4pm).

Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment. For more information, call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2000 or 1242. (NMC)

MHS Class of '83 reunion reminder

The Marianas High School's Class of 1983 Reunion Committees would like to remind everyone that March 31 is just around the corner. Those who have not purchased event tickets are reminded to purchase one on or before March 31, 2008 to avoid paying an extra \$5 at the door.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details: Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665; Viola Kaipat at 483-0214;

Ed Camacho at 483-5262; Jane Tudela at 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo at 236-9777; Ben Sablan at 287-1480; or Diego Songsong at 287-4300. (PR)

Oleai Elementary School registration

The Oleai Elementary School said that the registration for all incoming Kindergartens for school year 2008-09 will be from April 1 to April 30, 2008. Students entering Kindergarten must have been born between Sept. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2003.

For new first grade and transfer students (grades 1 to 6th), registration will be in June to July 2008.

■ Documents required for registration are:

■ Birth certificate (from the court)

■ School entrance health certificate (updated)

■ Current school accident/health insurance coverage/Medicaid card (updated)

■ Residency map

■ Legal adoption/guardianship documents (if applicable)

■ Valid CNMI entry permit (if applicable)

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, north of Island Market to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai).

For more information, call the school at 664-3942. (PR)

Life & Style

Firstborn kids do get most of the attention

By **DONNA ST. GEORGE**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When her oldest child was in kindergarten, Laura Haggerty-Lacalle sat down with her every day to review reading or math, intent on providing that most precious commodity of all: parent time. “Oh my God, it’s the most important thing you can do,” she said.

But when her second child hit the same age, life was more hectic. Now, with a third child, Haggerty-Lacalle, 37, feels good when she gets five minutes to stack blocks or build Legos in her Oak Hill, Va., home. “When you have three kids,” she says, “you’re just trying to survive.”

Within this familiar progression of family life, new research has confirmed what some parents recognize and others quietly fear: Their firstborn children get more of their time than others in the family—on average, 3,000 extra “quality” hours from ages 4 to 13, when sisters and brothers are in the picture.

That’s 25 extra minutes a day with mothers on average and 20 extra minutes a day with fathers across a nine-year span of childhood, according to a study by economist Joseph Price of Brigham Young University.

Some parents find themselves surprised by the lopsided time log, but the big question, experts say, is whether this difference helps explain findings that show firstborn children get better test scores, more education and higher-paying jobs.

“I certainly think it advances our understanding,” said Sandra Black, an economist at the University of California at Los Angeles, who has studied achievement and birth order. Although the reasons for first-

borns’ success have not been fully explored, she said, the new study provides one plausible explanation.

Based on federal data from more than 15,000 children whose days were detailed as part of the American Time Use Survey, the new study defined quality time with parents as minutes spent together on such activities as homework, meals, reading, playtime, sports, teaching, arts, religion and conversation. In all categories, firstborns got more, according to the study, published in the *Journal of Human Resources*.

This was not because of any lack of fair-mindedness, Price said, but rather because of an underlying fact of family life: Parents generally spend equal time with their children on any given day, but they spend less time with their children as the family ages. For example, mothers in two-child families spend 136 minutes a day with their firstborns at age 7. But by the time the secondborn reaches that age, they spend 114 minutes.

These daily differences become a wide gap as the years pass.

“I think if you told parents that they spend more time with their firstborn, some might say, ‘Okay,’ but many would be shocked because there is this feeling that you treat your children equally,” said sociologist Suzanne Bianchi of the University of Maryland.

Parents often do not recognize the imbalance, Price said, because day-to-day they are fairly equal about their time. “On any given day, you’re more likely to spend a little more time with the second child,” he said. “But it’s still not nearly as much time as you spent with the firstborn when he was that same age.”



Bill Kiefer keeps a grip on daughter Madeline Kiefer, 5, as Aidan Kiefer, 20 months, waits his turn at their home in Manassas, Va.; new research confirms what many parents already knew and some worried about: first born children get more parental attention.

Many parents said the time gap was not true for their families. To others, the findings fall in line with the rhythms of family life. Their firstborns led the way in family choices about schools, sports, music lessons and family rules. Every milestone was new.

“The first one has the most profound impact on the parents because you don’t have a clue what you’re doing,” said Dia Michels, 49, a mother of three in Washington, D.C., who recalled that her eldest daughter’s gymnastics classes once set the schedule for the whole family. Younger siblings went along for the ride, and dinners were rearranged.

In Manassas, Va., Kristen Kiefer, 34, a mother of two, said she recognizes that her firstborn, Madeline, 5, “is driving the bus right now about where we’re going and when,” with soccer,

play dates and birthday parties. Still, Kiefer said, she is deliberate about making time for her 20-month-old son, Aidan.

Recently, this came up as Kiefer planned a trip for the family. Her son adores Elmo, but her daughter says she has outgrown the furry red Sesame Street character. “I decided that, like it or not, we’re taking the baby to Sesame Place while he still enjoys it,” she said.

Sometimes, she said, she wonders whether her secondborn gets short shrift. “I go to bed at night thinking, ‘I didn’t do enough of this for this kid or enough of that for that kid.’” In the end, she said, “the reality is, with two working parents and two kids ... you just never feel like there’s enough time.”

In Bowie, Md., Damon Kyler, 42, a father of three, noted that the time gap might happen in part because younger children in the family often seek out their

older siblings, not their parents. But 3,000 more hours to the firstborn?

“It did surprise me that it was so drastic,” he said.

During his research, Price said, he discovered the firstborn time gap almost by accident, as he was poring over data on parent-child time, focused on a different topic. “The results were completely surprising and caused a lot of reflection for me as a parent,” he said.

In two-child families, firstborn children got about 30 percent more quality time from their parents. Birth-order differences were largest in activities Price thought to be most important, such as reading and playing together. Secondborns prevailed in one category: watching television with parents. Price did not count this as quality time.

Why parents spend less time with children as a family ages was not studied, but Price offered

some reasons, including fatigue, age and a waning novelty. In his family, he recalled, the firstborn had an elaborate scrapbook right away, but the scrapbook for his fourth child, 14 months old, has not been started.

Price also pointed out that parents are more involved in driving their children to activities as the firstborn gets older, and driving was not counted as quality time.

How much the eldest benefits from being a family’s first might not be as certain as experts assume, said Sally MacKenzie, 53, a Rockville mother of four sons who sent her youngest to college in the fall. MacKenzie recalled the words of a relative, who once told her: “Firstborns are the ones you practice on, and it shows.” As a group, she said, firstborns might be more successful by some measures, but “I don’t know if that means they’re happier or more neurotic.”

Lauren Alexander, 38, a mother of two in Cheverly, also noted fairness is not always measured by the numbers. “You can have fair treatment across all of your children, and it may not come in the form of equal time,” she said, comparing it to husbands and wives who might not share each chore equally, “but in the end, it’s probably fair.”

Despite the time gap, later-born children have advantages, too, Price said. On average, they are raised when families have higher incomes and larger homes; more attend private schools. “The secondborn gets to experience a better life in terms of money, but the firstborn gets more time,” Price said.

In Oak Hill, Haggerty-Lacalle said that her family is dedicated to reading time before bed and that her husband, Joaquin, takes the older two children on hikes every weekend.

French leader’s ex-wife said to remarry

NEW YORK (AP)—The ex-wife of French President Nicolas Sarkozy has tied the knot at the famed Rainbow Room in New York’s Rockefeller Center, French newspapers reported Monday.

Though details about the nuptials have been kept under wraps, *Le Figaro* and *Libération* said Cecilia Ciganer-Albeniz—the former Mrs. Sarkozy—married Richard Attias, an events planner, Sunday night. The two dailies didn’t identify their sources.

Ciganer-Albeniz’s lawyer, Michele Cahen, didn’t immediately return calls seeking comment.

The wedding ceremony and reception at the 65th-floor Rainbow Room, which offers panoramic views of New York,

wrapped up three days of private festivities that began with a party Friday at Attias’ house in Connecticut, *Le Figaro* said on its Web site.

The ceremony was planned for 150 guests, the report said.

Photographers were on hand as Ciganer-Albeniz and Attias emerged together Saturday evening from a car to see the Abba-inspired musical “Mamma Mia!” at a Broadway theater.

The marriage will be the third for 50-year-old Ciganer-Albeniz. Her first husband was French television personality Jacques Martin. Attias, a 48-year-old Moroccan-born multimillionaire, is the CEO of global events company PublicisLive, based in Switzerland. His company

declined to comment.

Ciganer-Albeniz left Sarkozy in May 2005 to live with Attias, but returned to Sarkozy’s side in the run-up to France’s presidential elections last spring. Their divorce was announced in October, ending an 11-year marriage.

Last month, the French leader married Carla Bruni, the Italian-born singer and former model.

Ciganer-Albeniz had tried to keep her wedding plans secret but word leaked out earlier this month when Versace announced that the couple had chosen the Milan fashion house to dress them for their nuptials. She reportedly canceled the order and requested a new couturier following Versace’s announcement.

Rowling says she had ‘suicidal thoughts’

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling said she contemplated suicide as she suffered from depression before her rise to success, according to an interview with a student journalist.

The Harry Potter author said she had suicidal thoughts in her mid-20s, when she was a single mother and struggling to establish a literary career.

“Mid-20s life circumstances were poor and I really plummeted,” Rowling said, according to an interview posted online by student journalist Adeel Amini.

Rowling said in the interview, parts of which were published in Edinburgh University’s *Student* magazine, that she sought help from doctors and spent nine months receiving cognitive behavioral therapy,

according to Amini.

“We’re talking suicidal thoughts here, we’re not talking, ‘I’m a little bit miserable,’” Rowling, 42, was quoted as saying.

Amini provided *The Associated Press* with an audio file of his 29-minute conversation with Rowling.

Christopher Little, Rowling’s London-based agent, didn’t immediately respond to requests Monday for comment.

Rowling has previously said she suffered depression before her Harry Potter series brought her international success. She has acknowledged that characters featured in the series called Dementors were inspired by her illness.

The author has said she sought medical help following

her separation from first husband, Jorge Arantes, a Portuguese journalist.

Amini told the AP in an e-mail that he had carried out the interview in Edinburgh last month. He said Rowling granted him an interview after a chance meeting several months ago in a coffee shop in the city.

“I have never been remotely ashamed of having been depressed. Never,” Rowling was quoted as saying in her interview with Amini. “What’s to be ashamed of? I went through a really rough time and I am quite proud that I got out of that.”

Fortune magazine ranks Rowling, who wrote seven Harry Potter novels, as one of the richest women in Britain, with an estimated wealth of \$1 billion.

Pamela Anderson's brief marriage ends

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pamela Anderson has ended another brief marriage. The “Baywatch” star’s nuptials with Rick Salomon were officially annulled Monday, according to documents filed in Superior Court. The documents listed fraud as the reason for the annulment but did not include further details.

Salomon and Anderson, 40, were married Oct. 6 in Las Vegas then separated Dec. 13.

Messages left for Anderson’s attorney Larry Ginsberg were not immediately returned. The documents did not name a lawyer for Salomon, and he could not be reached.

Court papers entered Friday showed that Salomon agreed to a filing by Anderson in late February requesting that the marriage should be voided. No spousal support was included.

Anderson was previously married to Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee and rocker Kid Rock. Rock and Anderson each filed for divorce in 2006 after less than four months of marriage.

Salomon, known for making a sex videotape with



Pamela Anderson poses for photographers as she arrives for her 40th birthday party at the Sublime cafe in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in this June 12, 2007 file photo.

then-girlfriend Paris Hilton, tress Shannen Doherty for nine months.

Judge upholds Spears conservatorship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A state appeals court on Monday dismissed an attorney’s challenge to the order that gives Britney Spears’ father control over much of her life.

Attorney Jon Eardley, who claimed to represent the pop star, filed an appeal March 11 challenging a court decision that made James Spears a co-conservator of his daughter’s estate.

Justice Roger Boren of the California Court of Appeal wrote in a ruling that the court has no jurisdiction to grant an appeal.

An after-hours call seeking comment from the lawyer was not immediately returned.

Last month, Eardley tried but failed to move the probate case to federal court, claiming that the conservatorship was a violation of Spears’ civil rights. A federal judge ruled that Eardley is not Spears’ attorney and has no authority to act on her behalf.

James Spears was named co-conservator of his daughter’s estate on Feb. 1 after she was twice hospitalized in a psychiatric facility. Conservatorships are granted for people deemed unable to take care of themselves or their affairs.

It lets the father restrict and limit visitors, retain caretakers and security guards, and gives him access to all medical records.

Spears goes for laughs on CBS’ show ‘Mother’

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney the Trainwreck showed how she can still be Britney the Performer. Britney Spears made her much-hyped guest appearance Monday night’s “How I Met Your Mother,” submersing her tumultuous personal life and portraying a sweet-natured receptionist, Abby, with a crush on unlucky-in-love Ted (Josh Radnor).

Problem is: Ted only has eyes for Abby’s boss Stella (Sarah Chalke), a dermatologist. Ted’s goal: to win a date by his 10th session with Stella. Nothing’s working.

Finally, he figures: “The receptionist—that’s my way in.”

So he brings Abby coffee in a bid to impress Stella, but it charms Abby even more. During one visit, Abby trails him and Stella into an office to deliver a book—a self-help tome called “The Power of Me”—that he left behind in the waiting room.

The 26-year-old pop star, who previously was on a 2006 episode of “Will and Grace,” appeared fresh-faced and relaxed, capably filling the small role. She was also the host and musical guest on “Saturday Night Live” in 2000.

Of course, she’s made news in recent months not for being Britney the Performer but for her split with ex-husband Kevin Federline in late 2006, their subsequent custody battle, Spears’ bizarre behavior and two hospitalizations.

Spears’ cameo on the CBS sitcom may mark the beginnings of a more successful comeback attempt than last September’s MTV Video Music Awards.

She remains under the conservatorship of her father, James.

Beatles’ friend Neil Aspinall dies at 66

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Aspinall, a longtime friend of the Beatles who managed their business enterprises and helped make the group a moneymaking phenomenon decades after they split up, has died. He was 66.

Aspinall’s death was announced Monday in a statement from surviving Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison, and the band’s Apple Corps Ltd. company.

Aspinall died Sunday night at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he had been receiving treatment for lung cancer, according to Geoff Baker, who formerly represented both Aspinall and Apple Corps.

Aspinall’s wife and five children were by his side; McCartney visited him before his death.

He was a childhood friend of McCartney and Harrison in Liverpool, England. While he didn’t contribute musically, he played several key roles in support of the Beatles, most notably as the head of their Apple Corps business, which oversaw the commercial concerns of the group, including licensing.

“I’ve known Neil many years and he was a good friend. We were blessed to have him in our

lives and he will be missed,” Starr said in a statement Monday.

Harrison’s widow Olivia and the couple’s son Dhani said: “Neil takes with him the love and history of his extended family. He was our constant and avuncular caretaker for so many years; there is no way to measure how much he will be missed.”

Aspinall and the late Mal Evans were the Beatles’ roadies. Aspinall would drive them

to gigs in his van before they became famous, and never left the band’s tight-knit circle. He took over the management of Apple Corps in 1968, and continued to oversee the group’s business affairs in the decades after they broke up in 1970.

As head of Apple Corps, Aspinall was executive producer of the

hugely successful “Beatles Anthology” album and was behind other successes, including the “Beatles One” album and the recent Cirque du Soleil production “Love,” which has been a hit in Las Vegas.

“As a loyal friend, confidant and chief executive, Neil’s trusting stewardship and guidance has left a far-reaching legacy for generations to come,” the band’s statement said.

Aspinall stepped down from Apple Corps last year.



Neil Aspinall, the managing director of Apple Corps Ltd, the Beatles’ record company, arrives at the High Court in London, in this March 29, 2006, file photo.

In Celebration Of Her New Life Trinidad Arriola Benavente

January 15, 1928 — March 21, 2008

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: Ignacio Villagomez & Rita Arriola Benavente
Daughter: Francisca B. Camacho
Reared Grandson: Paul Lee Camacho
Grandaughter: Nadine I. Camacho
Great-Grandson: Patrick D. Ito, Jr.
Sister-In-Law: Magdalena C. Benavente
Niece: Phyllis A. Leuta

She is survived by her Children:

Luis B. and Antonette C. Camacho: Danielle & Matthew, Luis Jr., David, Gabriel & Joshua
Norbert B. and Lisa Camacho: Norbert & Ronna (Kyle), Norma & Steve (Nolan, Nathan & Napua)
Norman & Dora (Reef Jordan) Nadia, Dolores, Michael, Julie & Jason
Rita C. and Vincent R. Cruz (Paula & John (Coloma) Maisie & Michael (Mariana & Malina Rose)
Margarita B. Camacho & Joseph Zillox
Whihelmina C. & Michael Jensen
Bernita B. & Alexander M. Ito: Andrew & Trish (Andrew & Andrei), Fernando (Fernalynn, Remilynn & FernAiden), Therese, Patrick (Kekoa), Margaret (Josiah), Eva & Alexander Jr.

Reared granddaughter: **Adrienne C. Villagomez**

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws

Jose A. and Martina K. Benavente & Family, Eleuterio A. Benavente, Dolores B. Camacho & Family, Sr. Veronica A. Benavente, Irminia B. Cox & Family, Maria B. Atalig & Family, Estanislao A. and Abelina Benavente & Family, Luis A. and Susan Benavente & Family

Care Givers

Verginia “Vergi” Castro, Milagros “Aurie” Maranon, and Teresita “Tess” Evangelista

Daily mass is being offered at 6 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Nightly Rosary is being prayed a 7 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church until Wednesday, March 26.

On Thursday, March 27, the Deceased will be taken from CHC at 9:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral and Mass of Christian Burial will follow immediately.

Thank you for your prayers.

Corinne Bailey Rae's husband found dead



Corinne Bailey Rae arrives at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in a Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008 photo, in Los Angeles.

LONDON (AP)—The husband of Grammy-nominated British singer Corinne Bailey Rae has been found dead.

Police say Jason Rae was found in an apartment in the northern English city of Leeds on Saturday. Officers are awaiting results of toxicology tests to determine the cause of death.

A 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of supplying

him with drugs but has been released on bail, officials said.

Thirty-one-year-old Jason Rae was a saxophonist with a funk band, the Haggis Horns.

Bailey Rae's self-titled debut album sold more than 1 million copies in the U.S. after its release in 2006.

The 29-year-old was nominated for song of the year at the Grammy Awards in both 2007 and 2008.

Sean Combs settles punching lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs has settled a lawsuit brought by a man who claims the rapper and fashion mogul punched him after a post-Oscar party outside a Hollywood hotel.

The terms of the deal were not disclosed in court papers posted Monday on the celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

After-hours calls to attorneys for both sides were not immediately returned.

The lawsuit by Gerard Rechnitzer claimed that Combs punched him, pushed his girlfriend and spat on another woman on Feb. 25, 2007 outside Teddy's Nightclub at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Rechnitzer sought unspecified damages.

In a court declaration, Combs said Rechnitzer lunged toward him and that "any contact ... was caused by his forward motion against my open hand."



Musician George Michael arrives at Brent magistrates court in London, in this June 8, 2007, file photo.

George Michael to tour North America

NEW YORK (AP)—Ladies and gentlemen, George Michael is giving North America one more try. The pop star is gearing up for his first tour of the United States and Canada in 17 years, opening a multicity "25 Live" tour in San Diego on June 17, Michael announced Monday. The tour is scheduled to wrap in Sunrise, Fla., on Aug. 3.

Other stops include Atlanta,

Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, Boston, Toronto and Montreal.

Michael, 44, sang in the '80s pop group Wham! before embarking on a successful solo career. His hits include "Faith," "Father Figure" and "One More Try."

He'll release his greatest-hits album "Twenty Five" in the U.S. on April 1.

Even furry pets need shelter when the winter winds blow

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have seen several dogs and cats left outside in below-zero weather this winter. Yes, animals have fur to help them keep warm, but that doesn't mean they don't get cold (even in dog houses). People get cold staying outside for an extended amount of time, even when bundled up, so imagine how the animals feel. These innocent animals can suffer from frostbite and hypothermia just like humans.

Won't you please remind your readers that pets should be brought inside on cold days and nights?

—ANIMAL LOVER IN NORFOLK, N.Y.

DEAR ANIMAL LOVER: While some breeds of dogs fare better in cold weather than others, all of them need interaction with their guardians. The animals you observed may have been left in the cold out of ignorance on the part of the humans with whom they co-exist.

I don't care how furry some of our furry friends appear to be. Check with your veterinarian to see when your breed should be brought indoors.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a divorced single mother with a 13-year-old daughter I'll call "Gia." We live next door to an attractive 62-year-old widow I'll call "Doris," who has become like a grandmother to Gia and a dear friend to me.

Last night I went to my daughter's room and found her standing on a stool in her closet looking out a small window into Doris' bedroom. When I asked Gia what she was doing, she didn't answer, so I climbed up on the stool to see for myself. Abby, Doris was in bed with her son, "Jeff," having sex. I could hardly believe my eyes!

Jeff is 36 and a mama's boy. He has his own home but visits his mother often. Gia said she has watched them many times since we moved here four years ago, and described some of the things she's seen.

I'm not sure how to handle this. Doris is very close to us, and Gia seems unaffected when we get together for dinner or the movies, etc.

Should I tell Doris and Jeff that I saw them? And what do I say to my daughter, who has been "educated" beyond her years?

—SEEN ENOUGH, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

DEAR SEEN ENOUGH: You should definitely tell Doris that your daughter has been getting an eyeful from her closet window, and strongly suggest that Doris' curtains be closed when Jeff is "visiting." And if you haven't already talked to your daughter about sex—and appropriate behavior—it's time you played catch-up, so don't delay.

I would find it hard to continue a friendship with a woman in an incestuous relationship with her son. They're in serious need of counseling.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an assistant librarian in New Mexico. My daughter recently told me she's going to convert to Buddhism. I'm perplexed by her choice. I want to support her because her aunt is also a Buddhist, but I wasn't raised Buddhist.

What advice can you give me?

—LONGTIME READER

DEAR LONGTIME READER: As an assistant librarian, you're surrounded by books. The time has come to pick up a couple and start reading about Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy. If you're near a computer, Google it. You'll find an abundance of information on the subject. I would also recommend that you attend a couple of meetings with your daughter. That way, you'll have a better understanding of what she—and her aunt—are attracted to.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby* - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Fred Thompson looks to go back to acting

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—After a failed run for president, Fred Thompson is getting back to pretending to be commander in chief.

Hollywood's high-powered William Morris Agency announced this week that it has signed the actor/politician, signaling a return to the screen for the former senator from

Tennessee.

Thompson most recently appeared as grizzled district attorney Arthur Branch on "Law & Order" and has played authority figures in the films "The Hunt For Red October," "Die Hard II" and "In the Line of Fire."

Thompson dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination on Jan. 22.

Fiennes, Neeson headline Beckett salute

NEW YORK (AP)—A starry Samuel Beckett celebration featuring Ralph Fiennes, Barry McGovern and Liam Neeson, will be part of Lincoln Center Festival 08.



Actor Liam Neeson arrives at the Conde Nast Traveler Readers Choice awards at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, in this Oct. 10, 2007, file photo in New York.

On" and Fiennes in "First Love."

There will also be two performances of readings of Beckett poetry and prose.

Among other theater-related events at Lincoln Center Festival 08 will be a new production of Euripides' "The Bacchae," July 2-13, from the National Theatre of Scotland, featuring Alan Cumming as Dionysius.

The three actors will appear in separate evenings of short works by the Irish playwright.

Under the collective title of "Gate/Beckett," the pieces, running at various times July 16-July 27, come from Dublin's Gate Theatre and were plays not originally written for the theater.

Neeson will star in "Eh Joe," which also features the voice of Penelope Wilton. McGovern will appear in "I'll Go

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



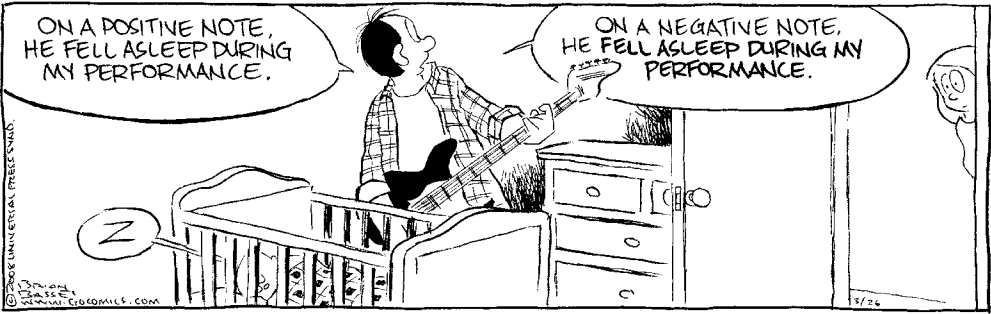
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Action word

5 Moreover

8 Lean-to

12 Stench

13 Zodiac cat

14 Site of busy activity

15 Virtually unlimited

17 Valhalla VIP

18 Lieu

19 Judges' props

21 Airplane assignment

24 Shell-game need

25 Right on the map?

28 Lemming's cousin

30 "— the Dog"

33 Go schussing

34 New Testament villain

35 Expert

36 Cushion

37 Roughly

38 Data measure

39 Flightless bird

41 Mayberry moppet

43 Man's hat style

46 Winner

50 Oahu

51 Linger

54 Otherwise

55 "Skip to My —"

56 November

57 Wan

58 Conclusion

59 Verve

2 Use a blue pencil

3 Took the bus

4 Chicken serving

5 Matter-horn, for one

6 Born

7 Chiming sound

8 Jostle hard

9 Lair

10 Satan's forte

11 Lairs

16 Praiseful poem

20 Mimicked

22 State confidently

23 Human trunk

25 Sixth sense, for short

26 Alias abbr.

27 Onion rings, e.g.

29 Aerobic maneuver

31 Performance

32 "Golly!"

34 Session with a shrink

38 Do as you're told

40 Saunter, cowboy-style

42 Skating surface

43 Dog's nuisance

44 Grown-up elves

45 Competent

47 MPs' quarry

48 "I never — man I didn't like"

49 Hammer-head part

52 Charged bit

53 Lemon

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 23; Kenny Chesney, 40; Martin Short, 58; Diana Ross, 64

Happy Birthday: You know your limitations this year all too well, so instead of wasting time on something you know you cannot do, put your effort into what you can accomplish. This can be a year of fruitful gains if you are honest about your capabilities and you stick to what's truly important to you. Your numbers are 2, 16, 23, 26, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Getting involved in other people's business will lead to disaster. You can make some money if you check your investments and move things around. Accept an offer being made or you may lose out by holding out. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Precision, detail, strategy and action will be required to get results. Everything will depend on the information you pick up so you can bypass the red tape issues. Follow your game plan and you will stay ahead of schedule. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There is money to be made if you do something nice for someone who cannot do for him-or herself. An opportunity will come to you through someone from your past who owes you a favor. Offer what you can and move on. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The seriousness that you portray will help you attract peers who are just as adamant as you are to get things done. An experienced individual will offer a helpful suggestion. A change in your vocation will be beneficial financially and mentally. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a great day for love, romance and making an intimate connection with someone new or your current lover. A need to spend on unnecessary items will set you back. Keep things simple and honest. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't put up with anyone's trying to pull a fast one or using emotional blackmail. You have lots going for you today so focus on trying new things, getting involved in interesting organizations and meeting people who are on the same page. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep things in perspective. If you stretch your budget or take on too much, you can expect to fall flat on your face. Caution must be taken: Avoiding disputes is imperative if you want to reach any conclusions. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make plans to do something with someone you love or want to get to know better. Don't let your work bog you down or stop you from paying proper attention to the people you care about. Now is not the time to neglect your personal responsibilities. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep whatever you know and cherish a secret. If you spill the beans or gossip, you can expect opposition and questioning. Stick close to home and take care of your personal responsibilities if you want to avoid arguments. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change in plans will work out to your advantage, so don't complain. A partner-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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ship will benefit you financially. You can ask for favors that will help you put a unique spin on one of your plans or projects. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take chances while traveling or communicating with people who can influence your future. Avoid taking what's going on around you the wrong way. A serious look at your relationships will help you decide who can benefit you and who can't. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should venture into unfamiliar territory whether it is a travel destination or trying something you've never done before. Peace of mind, possible love and renewed enthusiasm regarding something you used to enjoy doing can all be yours if you take the right action. *****

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, enthusiastic and totally unpredictable. You are intelligent, manipulative and can easily out maneuver the competition.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/26

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KALEIDOSCOPIES Solution: 9 letters

DLCONFIGURATION
NEWDMOTSUCENTER
UNPRAHSSHTFGSDG
OSSALGCNYLSRRGE
REDOEOIOUMOIREO
GSABYLOILLMEWSM
KSEDEEDTOLVEMTE
CEBRSNNCRLEWTUT
ANYASGEEIICAR
BOICITASMMMAQTNY
RTCSHHTRPOANUOD
ISEESABEOVDGGIR
GDLOGAINTRELEELD
HPATTERNTROLLSE
TSERUTCIPEBBLES

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Background, Base, Beads, Bright, Cardboard, Center, Collector, Colors, Configuration, Custom, Design, Edges, Eyes, Fluid, Geometry, Glass, Gold, Images, Import, Intersections, Keychain, Length, Lenses, Liquid, Merge, Model, Move, Neat, Pattern, Pebbles, Pictures, Roll, Sharp, Silver, Stones, Symmetry, Tool, Triangle, Turn, Twist, Wand

Yesterday's Answer: Soothing

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3 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (MW 0027)

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11 DANCER (MW 0046)

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men's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0048)

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11 SINGER (MW 0050)

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10 DANCER (MW 0051)

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1 WELDER (WF 0039)

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Billups lead Pistons past Suns in OT



AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)—Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 32 points in overtime, helping the Detroit Pistons beat the Phoenix Suns 110-105 on Monday.

Phoenix entered with a seven-game winning streak, but lost to the Pistons for the second time in a month. The Pistons were missing All-Star guard Richard Hamilton (hip) and backup Juan Dixon (calf), which meant Lindsey Hunter played for the first time since Jan. 10 and had three points in 10 minutes.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 33 points.

Nets 106, Knicks 91, OT

At New York, Vince Carter scored 27 points, Richard Jefferson added 26 and the New Jersey Nets moved within one game of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

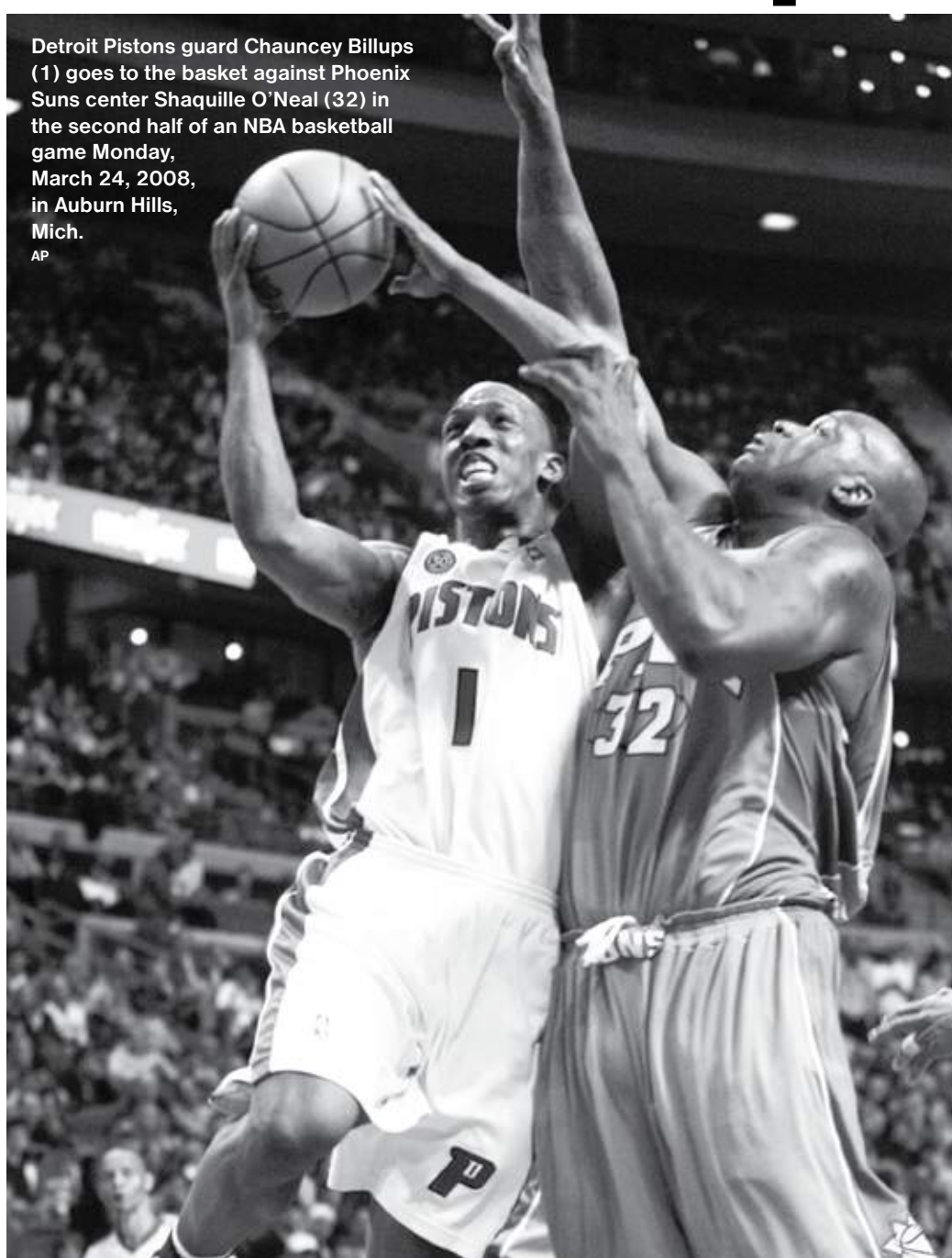
New Jersey beat its cross-Hudson rivals for the first time this season after three losses. Nenad Krstic added 22 points for the Nets, who are a half-game ahead of Indiana (29-41) and one game behind Atlanta (30-39) in the conference standings.

Jamal Crawford led the Knicks with 26 points.

76ers 95, Celtics 90

At Boston, Andre Iguodala scored 28 points, including 10 in a row during a 19-0 fourth-quarter run as Philadelphia rallied from an 11-point deficit to beat Boston.

Eddie House's 3-pointer gave Boston an 80-69 lead with 8:20 to play, but the Celtics couldn't score until Paul Pierce hit one of two free throws with 1:38 left. By that time, the Sixers were on their way to their ninth victory in 11



Detroit Pistons guard Chauncey Billups (1) goes to the basket against Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal (32) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 24, 2008, in Auburn Hills, Mich. AP

games and their 18th in 23 tries.

Kevin Garnett scored 18 for Boston, which lost its second straight game after winning 14 out of 15.

Heat 78, Bucks 73

At Miami, Chris Quinn, filling in for an injured Jason Williams,

scored a career-high 24 points to lead Miami past Milwaukee.

Quinn was a late insertion into the starting lineup for Williams, who'll be sidelined a week with a right thumb injury that required a hard cast.

Michael Redd scored 24 points to lead the Bucks.

Nuggets 120, Grizzlies 106

At Memphis, Tennessee, Allen Iverson had 26 points and seven assists, while Carmelo Anthony finished with 23 points as Denver used a big second half to defeat Memphis.

J.R. Smith led the Nuggets,

scoring 25 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter, as Denver stretched the lead to as many as 22 in winning its third straight. Smith was 8-of-10 in the period, including seven outside the arc.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 30 points.

Rockets 108, Kings 100

At Houston, Rafer Alston scored 28 points and Tracy McGrady added 17 as Houston beat Sacramento to give coach Rick Adelman his 800th career victory.

Adelman, who won 395 games coaching Sacramento from 1998-2006, became the 13th coach to reach the milestone. He's one of six active coaches with 800 wins, joining Pat Riley, Phil Jackson, Jerry Sloan, Don Nelson and George Karl.

Kevin Martin scored 18, and Ron Artest and Francisco Garcia had 17 apiece to lead the Kings, who've lost eight of their last nine road games.

SuperSonics 97, Trail Blazers 84

At Seattle, Kevin Durant scored 23 points and Seattle snapped its 11-game losing streak in what could be the final meeting of the

I-5 rivalry.

With Sonics owner Clay Bennett pressing to move his team to Oklahoma City as early as next season, Monday night may have been the final time the longtime rivals faced off just 180 miles apart. The series started in 1970 and the Sonics hold a 98-94 lead.

Martell Webster led Portland with 22 points, but 15 came in the first quarter when the Seattle native hit four 3-pointers.

Lakers 123, Warriors 119, OT

At Oakland, California, Lamar Odom made the go-ahead layup with 9 seconds left in overtime, and the Los Angeles Lakers shook off Golden State's frantic regulation rally to hang on for a victory.

Kobe Bryant scored 23 of his 30 points after halftime, while Odom finished with 23 points and 21 rebounds as the Lakers reclaimed the Western Conference's top spot and avenged Sunday night's 115-111 loss to the Warriors.

Baron Davis had 30 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Warriors, who have lost four of seven in a critical stretch for their playoff hopes.

Reigning MVP Nowitzki out indefinitely

DALLAS (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki came out of the locker room wearing a blue practice jersey and gray sweat pants, then headed downstairs to the Dallas Mavericks practice court. He slapped hands with Jason Kidd's son and joked with a few other folks nearby.

His light mood changed once he reached the crowd waiting for him.

Nowitzki met with reporters for about 10 minutes Monday to discuss the leg injury he sustained the previous day. He said he feels fortunate it's only a moderate high-ankle sprain and a mildly sprained knee and he hopes to be back in a week or two.

But he also realizes it could be longer and the Mavericks might miss the playoffs without him.

"This is probably the most painful time to miss games," Nowitzki said. "That's very discouraging."

The medical staff can't even set a rehabilitation plan for the reigning MVP until the swelling is gone, which will give them a better feel for the damage.

"We'll take it day-by-day, trust our trainers, trust our doctors, then go from there," Nowitzki said. "Hopefully I can move where I can already go on the underwater treadmill a little bit in the next couple of days so at least I can put some pressure on it and see how it feels."

If there was any good news for the Mavs, it's that the big German moved pretty quickly for a guy with a bulky protective boot on his left leg. And, while Nowitzki was talking, Kidd was putting in extra work on his jump shot. Dallas will need all the scoring it can get without Nowitzki's 23.6 points per game.

"I think this is a great challenge," Kidd said. "We feel that we still have a lot of the pieces to be successful. We know that it's not going to be easy."

It wasn't going to be easy, even with Nowitzki.

The Mavericks have lost three straight and are only 9-8 since Kidd arrived in a blockbuster trade that was supposed to bolster their championship chances.

Now, with 12 games left, Dallas has some work to do to keep alive a streak of seven straight playoff trips. The Mavericks were a half-game ahead of Golden State and two up on Denver pending Monday night games for the Warriors and Nuggets.

Getting passed by Golden State would only drop Dallas from the seventh seed to the eighth. Also getting passed by Denver would sink the Mavericks into the lottery.

Three of the Mavs' next five games are against Golden State and Denver. Life without Nowitzki begins Tuesday night at home against the Clippers.

"In this league anything's possible," Nowitzki said. "Everything's so tight. ... So, we'll just see what happens, but I'm confident in the guys and we'll go from there."

CEO Walsh to leave Pacers after season

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Donnie Walsh's career with the Indiana Pacers will end after this season, giving operation of the troubled franchise a single voice under Hall of Famer Larry Bird.

"Now it's one voice; it's mine," Bird said. "Pressure is pressure. I've dealt with it in the past, and I'm looking forward to it."

Walsh, the team's CEO and president since 1988, said Monday he would step aside after this season, his 24th year with the Pacers. He would not comment on his future, including media reports that he already has been talking with the New York Knicks about taking over as their president.

"As far as what I'm going to do, I'm not sure," the 67-year-old Walsh said at a news conference. "As a result, I'm not going to comment on it until I have a better idea."

In New York, Isiah Thomas wouldn't comment on speculation that Walsh could replace

him, but praised his former boss with the Pacers.

"He's had a great career, he's one of the best who's ever done it," Thomas said before the Knicks played New Jersey. "I wish him great success and he's someone that I respect tremendously. He gave me my first coaching job and I truly do like him as a person and he's done a lot for the game."

Walsh, who joined the Pacers as an assistant coach in 1984, became general manager in 1986 and president two years later. He hired Bird as coach in 1997, and after Bird moved into the front office three years later, Walsh groomed him as his eventual successor.

As president of basketball operations, Bird has shared many of the day-to-day operations with Walsh in recent years, a division of authority that has often led to confusion in dealing with other teams, Walsh said.

"My real reason is, I think I've been here too long," he

said. "It's not healthy for the franchise."

"I started thinking that the last two or three years. But you also want to see things get better."

The Pacers reached the Eastern Conference finals six times and won the Central Division four times under Walsh. They made the NBA finals in 2000, when they lost to the Los Angeles Lakers, and had the league's best record in 2004 before the franchise began unraveling.

"It was a joy to spend time in Indiana under his leadership. Great man and a great basketball mind," said Mark Jackson, who played on the Pacers' finals team. "Sad to see, being a member of the Pacers and knowing what he means to that organization and that community, but at the same time I wish him nothing but the very best because like I said, he's a great man and a great basketball mind. He's the best in the business."

Starting with the brawl in-

volving Indiana players and Detroit Pistons fans, the past three seasons have been littered with losing records, personnel changes and off-court issues that have damaged the team's once-shiny reputation.

Former Pacer Stephen Jackson pleaded guilty to criminal recklessness for firing gunshots in the air during a 2006 fight at a strip club; this year, Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley and several companions were targeted in a shooting that wounded the team's equipment manager outside a downtown hotel. And Tinsley and Marquis Daniels recently cut a deal with prosecutors to avoid trial on charges in a separate fight at a nightclub.

Recently, a murder suspect was arrested after he had been at the home of Pacers forward Shawne Williams and a rape was reported at Daniels' home. Neither player was charged and police said Daniels was not a suspect in the rape.

Tiger's 6-month win streak ends at Doral

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Even someone like former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy can acknowledge being a bit mesmerized by seeing Tiger Woods win tournament after tournament after tournament. "It's quite fun to watch," Ogilvy said.

Sure, but it doesn't compare to beating Woods—especially when the world's No. 1 hasn't lost in six months.

Ogilvy won the CA Championship on Monday, saving a round that seemed in peril with a chip-in for par at the 13th hole and going on to claim his second victory in a World Golf Championship event. And not only did Ogilvy take down Tiger, he did it at Doral, where Woods had won each of the past three years.

So much for that perfect-season talk. The streak is over.

"It was going to end at some point," Ogilvy said. "I'm very glad that I did it. It's a nice place to do it, too, because he's obviously owned this place for the last few years. He just had one of those weeks."

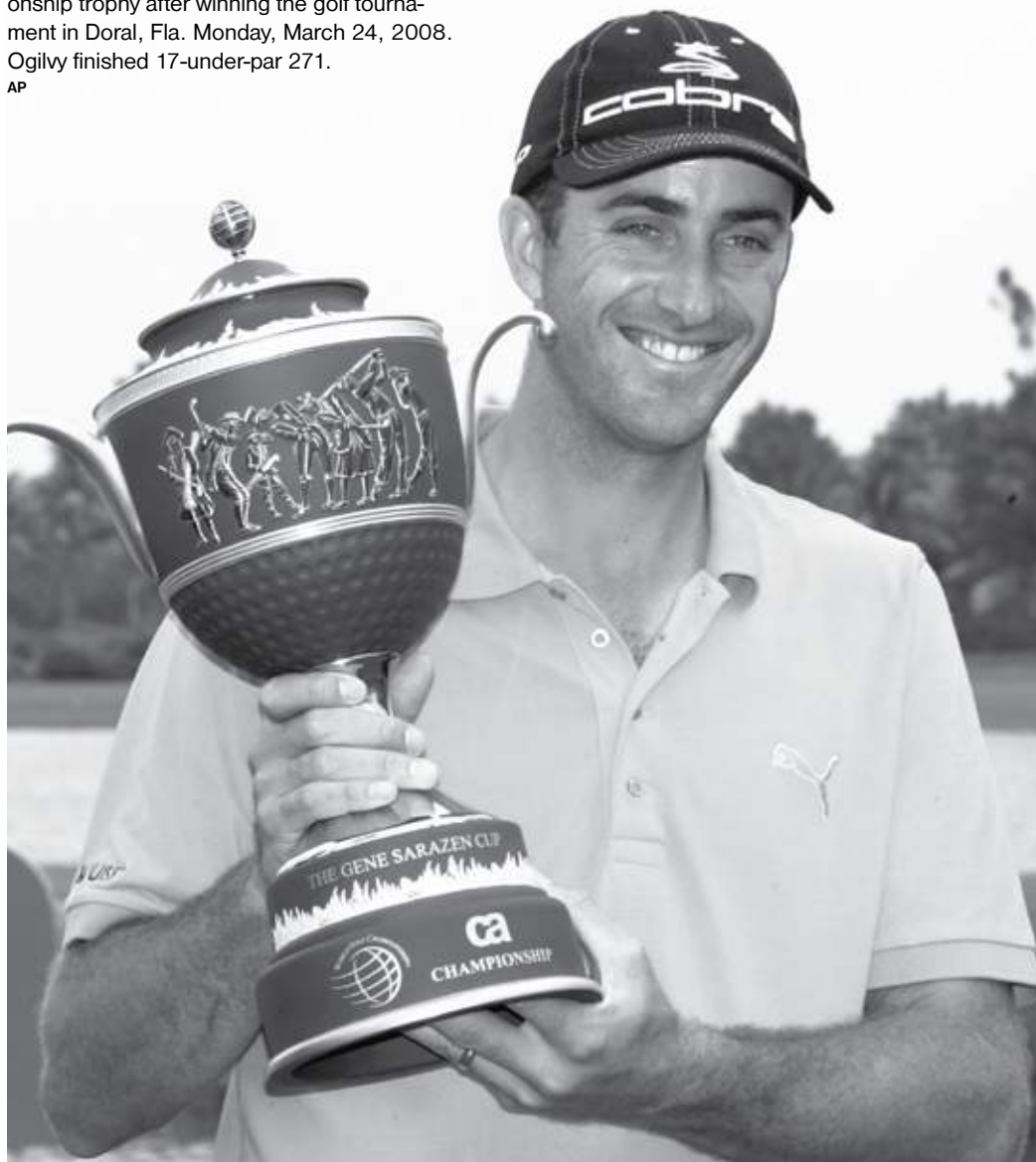
A final round of 1-under 71—with nothing but nine pars Monday—was enough for Ogilvy to finish at 17 under, one shot better than Retief Goosen, Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh, who all closed with 68s in the rain-delayed tournament. Woods was fifth at 15 under, losing for the first time in six PGA Tour starts and seven official ones worldwide, not counting his win at the Target World Challenge.

"As players, it's nice to see somebody else lift a trophy for a change," Goosen said.

With the win, Ogilvy joined select company—only Woods

Geoff Ogilvy of Australia holds the CA Championship trophy after winning the golf tournament in Doral, Fla. Monday, March 24, 2008. Ogilvy finished 17-under-par 271.

AP



(15) and Darren Clarke (two) have more than one WGC title.

"People don't really understand, you need to have something happen, a positive thing happen to you out there in order to win tournaments," Woods said. "I heard Geoff bladed one in the hole for par. That's what

you need to have happen. Those are the things that have happened to me, and things weren't going that way this week."

Indeed, Ogilvy got the biggest break at the most crucial time.

Woods started the morning five shots back with seven holes remaining and made his typi-

cal charge, closing within two strokes after making a 4-footer at the 17th. He birdied the 12th to start his day, then hit his tee shot within a foot at the par-3 15th for a tap-in.

At that very moment, two holes behind, Ogilvy seemed in trouble.

He pulled his 2-iron tee shot at the par-3 13th way left, and his chip from thick, dewy grass didn't even reach the green—making bogey seem probable, until a most improbable shot followed.

Ogilvy's second chip hopped twice, hit the pin and dropped straight in, giving the Australian a break he desperately needed. If it went past the cup, he surely could have been looking at double-bogey—since the ball clearly would have kept rolling for a while.

"That was moving," Ogilvy said. "That's why you have to hit it on line. Flag gets in the way."

Around the same time that chip dropped in, Ogilvy's nearest pursuers began falling off.

Singh was the first one to make a run at Ogilvy, getting within a stroke before back-to-back bogeys doomed his chances. Furyk got within one after making birdie at the 17th, then missed the fairway at the finishing hole. Adam Scott started the morning four shots back, then inexplicably missed a 2-foot tap-in and lost all hope of making a run.

"Geoff played well," Singh said. "He hit a lot of great shots and putted nicely. Somebody had to win, somebody had to lose."

For a change, Woods was one of those somebodies on the losing side.

It was Woods' first defeat since Sept. 3, and his perfect start to 2008 begged the ridiculous-sounding question: Could he go

unbeaten for an entire year?

"You want to always win every one you play in," Woods said. "So you've just got to get ready for the next one."

His next official tournament: the Masters, where Woods' annual Grand Slam quest will begin.

"I think it's a great sign, what happened this week, to make that many mistakes and only be two back," Woods said.

It has come to this: When Woods doesn't win, it counts as stunning news.

He was less than an even-money favorite before the tournament began, and at least one British bookmaker had Woods at the preposterous odds of 1-to-3 after the second round - when he wasn't even in the lead.

But since Woods' surge of late was amazing even by his own standards, why would those oddsmakers expect anything less?

"The chitchat about 'Is he going to win every golf tournament this year,' that's frustrating stuff to hear," Ogilvy said.

Ogilvy won't have to hear it anymore.

His last win was the 2006 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, the one best remembered by Phil Mickelson's final-hole double-bogey collapse that handed Ogilvy the title.

There was some symmetry at Doral, where this week might go down as the week Tiger lost.

"I guess they stopped going in for him this week," Ogilvy said. "Yeah, it's nice."



Niners forfeit pick for Briggs tampering



NEW YORK (AP)—The San Francisco 49ers forfeited their fifth-round pick in next month's NFL draft after commissioner Roger Goodell said they tampered with Chicago linebacker Lance Briggs.

In a statement released by the league Monday, Goodell also said the teams will switch picks in the third round of the April 26-27 draft. Chicago, which had the 12th pick, will get San Francisco's seventh pick and the 49ers will get Chicago's choice.

Goodell said the 49ers violated the NFL's anti-tampering policy by contacting Briggs' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, about his client during the 2007 season.

"The 49ers organization respects Commissioner Goodell's ruling today, however we do disagree with it," 49ers general manager Scot McCloughan said in a statement. "This was not a malicious act; we believe that our intent was within the NFL guidelines. Going forward, we will take the necessary steps to ensure we are in compliance with the NFL's interpretation."

Briggs, an all-Pro in 2007, had been designated as Chicago's franchise player, signing a one-year tender that meant he could not leave the Bears.

He had been expected to leave as a free agent after last season but instead re-signed with Chicago for \$36 million over six years. Briggs will earn \$21.6 million in the first three years of the deal and \$13 million of the contract is guaranteed.

"We are appreciative of the efforts of the league office on this matter and support the commissioner's decision," Bears president and CEO Ted Phillips said in a statement.

There had been reports of contact between the 49ers and Rosenhaus last season, and the Bears filed a tampering charge with the NFL. Goodell said both teams cooperated with his investigation into the allegations.

Dice-K set for opening day in homeland



T O K Y O
(A P) —
D a i s u k e

Matsuzaka has traveled the globe pitching in big games—the Olympics, the World Baseball Classic, the World Series. He's won many of them without blinking in the glare of the spotlight.

Now comes another, the first game of the major league baseball season and he's back where it all began, in Japan. Adoring fans in his home town await his return to the Tokyo Dome mound in the uniform of the champion Boston Red Sox on Tuesday night.

"I think it's an emotional game for him because he's going to be fired up and the crowd's probably going to be crazy and rooting for him," Boston's Mike Lowell said Monday, "which is good for us."

Dice-K will face the Oakland Athletics and right-hander Joe Blanton in the earliest season opener in major league history. The next night, it will be Boston's Jon Lester against Rich Harden.

Just one regular season game

out of 162 isn't as big as the 2006 WBC, where Matsuzaka was MVP after Japan won the tournament. It certainly can't measure up to his strong performances last year in Game 7 of the AL championship series and Game 3 of the World Series or playing in the 2004 Olympics in Australia.

So nerves shouldn't be a factor for a pitcher who has succeeded so often under pressure and rarely shows emotion on the mound.

Right?

"It's human nature in a big game to be nervous," Lowell said. "You can be nervous and confident. But this ice in your veins, man of steel, I don't believe it. No one's this robot, not Dice-K, not anyone."

Besides, Oakland manager Bob Geren doesn't expect Blanton to be intimidated by facing a national treasure who emerged as a solid starter as a rookie last year in a strange league.

"He is a very good pitcher," Geren said of Dice-K at a news conference Monday with Blanton, "and so is the guy sitting

next to me."

After eight years as a star with the Seibu Lions, Matsuzaka signed a six-year, \$52 million contract with Boston, which paid \$51.1 million simply for the right to negotiate with him.

He was 15-12 with a 4.40 ERA last year with 201 strikeouts in 204 1-3 innings, and Boston won its second championship in four years. Blanton finished at 14-10 with a 3.95 ERA, but Oakland had its first losing season in nine years.

Matsuzaka got the opening day nod because Red Sox ace Josh Beckett remained at the team's camp in Fort Myers, Fla., because of a back injury that should keep him out about 10 more days. Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez stayed home after having three operations in the last six months.

Matsuzaka took the loss in his only game against them, 2-0 on June 5 in Oakland. Former Boston pitcher Lenny DiNardo got the win despite walking six in six innings.

"I beat him, once," DiNardo

said. "He's a superstar around here and I'm sure it's going to be a big, rowdy crowd."

The teams warmed up by playing two exhibition games, against the Hanshin Tigers and Yomiuri Giants, and going 2-0. After Wednesday's game, each team has three more exhibition contests—Boston at the Los Angeles Dodgers and Oakland against the San Francisco Giants.

Then they wrap up the opening four-game series in Oakland on April 1 and 2.

Red Sox players "try to prepare as a normal series even if were not in the normal place to play," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

That they're far from home was ear-splittingly obvious during the exhibition games when drums and chants came from the left field seats whenever Yomiuri, which plays its home games in the Dome, or Hanshin was at bat.

"It's nice to hear the Japanese way of cheering after a long time," said Matsuzaka, who will be in the middle of all that noise Tuesday night.

Spring break youth volleyball opens

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Four teams opened up with wins at the start of the 2008 Spring Break Volleyball Festival yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Twenty-six teams divided into three age divisions in the boys and girls class will be fighting for the titles in the four-day tournament, which ends on March 28.

Hilitai led the list of winners when they scored a 25-23, 25-21 win over UR Mom, which is represented by Whispering Palms School, in the girls 12-and-under division, while the Koblerville Elementary School Umangs downed H To The Obos-WPS, 25-11, 25-16, in the 12-and-under boys.

Kagman High School Ayuyus, meanwhile, pulled off a 25-23, 25-21 triumph against Saipan Southern High School, while the Dolphins defeated Kontenders, 25-17, 25-18.

Twelve more games were being played at press time.

In the boys' 18-and-under division, Brotherhood is up one set after a 25-19 decision against visiting Tinian.

Brotherhood was comfortably ahead at 21-13 when Tinian High School scored six straight points to threaten. But that was as far as they could go as Brotherhood scored the final four points to wrap up the opening frame.

Final results of their game were not available as of this writing.

Other participating teams are, H To The Obos, Umangs, Team Gaga, and Team Tokka (12-and-under boys); Mini Marshmallows and Fotten Bwii

Bwiis (12-and-under girls); Spicy Tuna, Umangs, Galuphs, and Geckos (14-and-under boys); UR Mom and Hilitai (14-and-under girls); Kings, Pwangs, Kontenders, Ayuyu, Okies, THS, Brotherhoods, and Hilitai (14-and-under boys); GWF, Bonafide, SSHS, THS, Powerpuffs, and KHS (18-and-under girls).

Division of Youth Services, in cooperation with the Division of Sports and Recreation, organized the four-day tournament.



TRENCH

From Page 28

here. Next week we will be getting our stuff at the gym and moving everything here."

Alvarez said it is possible that the next Trench Warz or Rites of Passage will be held at their new gym.

Ben Babauta, who represented the Babauta family estate, welcomed its new partnership with Trench Tech Gym. "I am happy with the new partnership and now it is official."

Babauta said the facility has been

available for quite some time after one garment factory closed late last year. "We have been waiting for the right opportunity for this facility and Cuki [Alvarez] and Randy [Taylor] opened up the idea of converting it to a gym."

"I have been a community man and I support every project for the youth. This is a big plus to our community. I think with this project everybody wins."

The new building is an old garment factory warehouse measuring 15,708 square feet and is capable of accommodating between 1,500 to 2,000 fight fans.

Trench Tech's new gym is an air-

conditioned facility with ample parking space that can accommodate more than 100 cars.

Trench Tech will follow the same regular business hours for training from 5pm to 8pm from Mondays to Saturdays. They are still selling the Trench Tech clothing line and other gear.

They are also preparing to offer more MMA classes like their planned after-school program for teenagers from 3pm to 5pm and women's classes. Alvarez said they would inform everyone of future developments.

For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 483-4662.

STRONG

From Page 28

2-for-2 with three runs, a triple and two RBIs.

Phillip Passi pitched two no-hit innings in relief while striking out three batters and walking one. Chris Aguon started for the Red Sox and lasted for two innings allowing three hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Dragons 19, Athletics 9

The Dragons, led by Misaki Cramer's 3-for-4 batting, used a 10-run first inning rally to cruise to a 19-9 win over the Athletics.

Cramer scored two runs had two RBIs, and a stolen base, while Andrew Johnson went 3-for-4 with three runs, a double, and two RBIs.

Nathan Camacho, Rafael Jones, and Steven Lizama shared the pitching duties for the Dragons. Camacho pitched

for two innings giving up one earned run on two hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Jones pitched one inning in relief allowing two hits with two strikeouts and four walks, while Lizama also had two hits but struck out three batters and walked two more.

On Saturday, Cramer went 3-for-3 with three runs including a triple that highlighted their 10-run third inning scoring spree as the Dragons went on a 19-9 rout of the Shell Marianas Suns.

Julian Ngeskebei only went 1-for-2 but scored two runs and three RBIs including a bases-clearing three-RBI double in the third.

Angelo Jones pitched three innings in relief and gave up six hits with two strikeouts and 10 walks.

The Dragons could have joined the Red Sox on top of the standings but they suffered a 4-6 loss to the same team on March 15.

NO FEAR

From Page 28

Pikan Gaga earned the first finals spot after a 16-25, 25-22, 15-10 decision against YoYo's. Pikan Gaga will face the winner of the Beach Jammers-YoYo's match in tomorrow's finals.

NO MAJOR

From Page 28

played at Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

The Destroyers, meanwhile, moved one game ahead of the Extremists after a 6-1 crushing of Krystal Perfect Spotters.

The Destroyers' lone loss was in the final doubles match when R.J. Macarinas and Luis Fajardo lost to Serge

Tipundao and Mario Junalon.

Porky's Extremist visited the Wild Wild West at Wild Bill's Bar in Garapan and came out with a 5-2 decision to stay within striking distance with the Hustlers and Destroyers.

In other games, USSP Fotten Palau also scored a 5-2 win over Lens 5 Amigos, while the Len's 5 Bad Boys, Coral Reef Barracuda, USSP Wat-ever, and Mr. Wonderful Shooters scored similar 4-3 wins over the Cor-

al Reef Shark Attack, VFW Warriors, Wild Bill's Snipers, and Porky's Wild Hogs, respectively.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

y-Boston	55	15	.786	—
Philadelphia	36	35	.507	191/2
Toronto	35	35	.500	20
New Jersey	30	41	.423	251/2
New York	19	51	.271	36

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	46	26	.639	—
Washington	36	33	.522	81/2
Atlanta	30	39	.435	141/2
Charlotte	25	44	.362	191/2
Miami	13	57	.186	32

Central Division

x-Detroit	50	20	.714	—
Cleveland	40	31	.563	101/2
Indiana	29	41	.414	21
Chicago	27	42	.391	221/2
Milwaukee	24	45	.348	251/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	47	21	.691	—
Houston	48	23	.676	1/2
San Antonio	47	23	.671	1
Dallas	44	26	.629	4
Memphis	18	52	.257	30

Northwest Division

Utah	46	25	.648	—
Denver	43	28	.606	3
Portland	37	34	.521	9
Minnesota	18	51	.261	27
Seattle	17	54	.239	29

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	49	22	.690	—
Phoenix	47	23	.671	11/2
Golden State	43	27	.614	51/2
Sacramento	31	39	.443	171/2
L.A. Clippers	21	48	.304	27

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Miami 78, Milwaukee 73
Detroit 110, Phoenix 105, OT
Philadelphia 95, Boston 90
New Jersey 106, New York 91
Denver 120, Memphis 106
Houston 108, Sacramento 100
Seattle 97, Portland 84
L.A. Lakers 123, Golden State 119, OT

CA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DORAL, Florida (AP)—Scores Monday from the CA Championship, an \$8 million (\$5.2 million) World Golf Championships event at the 7,266-yard, par-72 Blue Course at Doral Golf Resort & Spa:

Final		
Geoff Ogilvy (4725), \$1,350,000	65-67-68-71	271
Retief Goosen (1960), \$530,000	71-69-64-68	272
Jim Furyk (1960), \$530,000	69-71-64-68	272
Vijay Singh (1960), \$530,000	73-68-63-68	272
Tiger Woods (1050), \$285,000	67-66-72-68	273
Steve Stricker (879), \$198,333	71-68-73-63	275
Nick O'Hern (879), \$198,333	67-75-67-66	275
Graeme Storm (0), \$198,333	71-70-63-71	275
Zach Johnson (735), \$147,500	69-72-67-68	276
Adam Scott (735), \$147,500	67-68-69-72	276
Soren Kjeldsen (0), \$125,000	69-71-71-66	277
K.J. Choi (551), \$106,167	70-70-67-71	278
Anders Hansen (0), \$106,167	67-71-67-73	278
Tim Clark (551), \$106,167	71-69-66-72	278
Aaron Baddeley (420), \$86,700	69-74-70-66	279
Justin Rose (420), \$86,700	70-71-70-68	279
Sergio Garcia (420), \$86,700	69-73-69-68	279
Stephen Ames (420), \$86,700	73-68-68-70	279
Gregory Havret (0), \$86,700	68-74-68-69	279
John Rollins (284), \$75,000	74-71-67-68	280
Stewart Cink (284), \$75,000	66-74-71-69	280
Phil Mickelson (284), \$75,000	67-74-70-69	280
Luke Donald (284), \$75,000	68-72-70-70	280
Robert Allenby (284), \$75,000	69-75-66-70	280
Mike Weir (284), \$75,000	73-69-67-71	280
Toru Taniguchi (0), \$66,500	68-73-72-68	281
Camilo Villegas (198), \$66,500	71-72-68-70	281
Miguel A. Jimenez (0), \$66,500	65-74-71-71	281
Jeev M. Singh (0), \$66,500	68-70-70-73	281
Andres Romero (167), \$62,500	68-72-73-69	282
Boo Weekley (167), \$62,500	72-73-69-68	282
Mark Calcavecchia (167), \$62,500	68-71-71-72	282
Robert Karlsson (0), \$62,500	68-70-70-74	282

Ryuji Imada (133), \$57,500	68-73-73-69	283
Justin Leonard (133), \$57,500	69-74-70-70	283
Stuart Appleby (133), \$57,500	73-71-68-71	283
Lee Westwood (133), \$57,500	71-72-72-68	283
Ross Fisher (0), \$57,500	68-73-70-72	283
Daniel Chopra (133), \$57,500	72-70-69-72	283
Trevor Immelman (105), \$52,500	70-74-70-70	284
Scott Verplank (105), \$52,500	71-70-74-69	284
J.B. Holmes (105), \$52,500	69-72-75-68	284
Brendan Jones (0), \$52,500	76-75-66-67	284
Woody Austin (84), \$48,875	70-70-74-71	285
Hunter Mahan (84), \$48,875	72-72-71-70	285
Niclas Fasth (0), \$48,875	72-69-70-74	285
Richard Sterne (0), \$48,875	71-77-67-70	285
Graeme McDowell (0), \$47,000	72-71-70-73	286
Brandt Snedeker (69), \$47,000	74-70-72-70	286
Andrew McLardy (0), \$47,000	74-74-70-68	286
Nick Dougherty (0), \$44,750	70-73-71-73	287
Arron Oberholser (62), \$44,750	72-70-72-73	287
Paul Casey (62), \$44,750	72-75-67-73	287
S.S.P. Chowrasia (0), \$44,750	74-73-68-72	287
Charles Howell III (62), \$44,750	69-76-72-70	287
Richard Green (0), \$44,750	74-72-71-70	287
Ian Poulter (59), \$42,250	71-72-72-73	288
Martin Kaymer (0), \$42,250	68-74-73-73	288
Henrik Stenson (0), \$42,250	72-72-76-68	288
D.J. Trahan (59), \$42,250	74-73-75-66	288
Chapchai Nirat (0), \$40,250	70-70-74-77	291
Paul Sheehan (0), \$40,250	72-73-72-74	291
Peter Hanson (0), \$40,250	71-74-73-73	291
Brett Wetterich (56), \$40,250	70-74-76-71	291
Colin Montgomerie (0), \$38,500	75-74-70-73	292
Jonathan Byrd (55), \$38,500	74-74-72-72	292
Anton Haig (0), \$38,500	72-80-73-67	292
Louis Oosthuizen (0), \$37,625	74-72-70-77	293
W.C. Liang (0), \$37,625	74-74-71-74	293
Rory Sabbatini (52), \$37,000	72-74-69-79	294
James Kingston (0), \$37,000	74-75-68-77	294
Soren Hansen (0), \$37,000	77-77-68-72	294
Craig Parry (51), \$36,375	73-75-72-75	295
Shingo Katayama (0), \$36,375	75-76-72-72	295
Ernie Els (50), \$36,000	74-75-73-74	296
Mark Brown (0), \$35,750	73-74-76-74	297
Heath Slocum (49), \$35,500	74-72-78-74	298

- FedEx Cup points in parentheses

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

Saipan Little League Major League

Red Sox	5	0
Oi'Aces	4	0
Dragons	4	1
Survivors	4	1
Patriots	3	1
Twins	3	1
Hustlers I	3	1
Dolphins	3	2
Braves	2	2
Athletics	1	3
Hustlers II	1	4
McDonald's	1	3
Dare JPO's	1	3
Lions	0	4
Pirates	0	4
Suns	0	5

Senior League

Jets	3	0
Dolphins	3	2
Fielders	1	1
D9ers	0	1
Liong King	0	3

Big League

Jets	3	0
Hustlers	1	0
Falcons	1	2
Aztecs	0	1
Dolphins	0	2

SBA 8-Ball Standings

SaipanCell Hustlers	53	10
Jonny's Destroyers	43	20
Porky's Extremists	42	21
Wild Wild West	37	26
Porky's Wild Hogs	37	26
Len's 5 Bad Boyz	36	27
USSP Fotten Palau	36	27
Mr. Wonderful Shooters	36	27
Coral Reef Shark Attack	35	28
Wild Bill's Snipers	27	36
USSP Wat-Ever	25	38
Godfather's Magas	22	41
Perfect Spotter	22	41
Len's 5 Amigos	20	43
Coral Reef Barracuda	17	46
VFW Warriors	16	47

Kimura gets invaluable experience in Tokyo



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center standout Kensuke Kimura, partly hidden fourth from right, pose for the camera with other swimmers at the train station after the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet held last March 15 and 16.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kensuke Kimura may have failed to break into the Top 20 of the boys' 11-12 division of the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet, but the Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan standout got invaluable experience being one of the 3,404 swimmers that took part in the competition held from

March 15 to 16 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.

He did impress before coming back to Saipan though, finishing 21st out of 103 in his age group. Kimura also broke his personal best time in the 50m breaststroke, touching the tile in 40.37.

Kimura was joined in the Tokyo trip by his father and Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

The younger Kimura qualified to the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet after meeting rigid qualifying times during the Saipan International Meet held last Feb. 29 and March 1 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Kensuke swam the 50m breaststroke in 41.55 seconds. The minimum qualifying time for an 11-year-old boy's entry for the prestigious Tokyo meet was 41.70 seconds.

After the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet, coach Hiro is setting his sights on the upcoming Junior Olympics where he is expected to take Kensuke and Tsunami Saipan's No. 1 swimmer, Rezne Wong. Wong didn't make the Tokyo trip since he was already 16 years and already over-aged for the 15-and-under competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tokyo's Tatsumi Stadium can seat 10,028 people. During the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet a total of 3,404 swimmers took part in the competition.



Kensuke Kimura takes a break from competition as he poses for the camera during the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kensuke Kimura in action in the 50m freestyle of the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimmers prepare for their heats during the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kensuke Kimura watches the competition and cheers for his friends in the water during the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soujyu Usui, who is one of top swimmers in Guam in 11-12 years old division, poses with Kensuke Kimura at Tatsumi Stadium before their race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura shares a light moment with Guam's Mana Iijima. Iijima finished first in the 50m freestyle and 100m IM in her age group en route to winning the best swimmer award in her division.

Kimura gets invaluable experience in Tokyo

Kensuke Kimura got invaluable experience being one of the 3,404 swimmers that took part in the competition held from March 15 to 16 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.



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Saipan Tribune Sports



Billups lead Pistons past Suns in OT

Chauncey Billups scored nine of his 32 points in overtime, helping the Detroit Pistons beat the Phoenix Suns 110-105 on Monday.

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Trench Tech's new home excites Cuki

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym co-owner and co-instructor Cuki Alvarez is excited about their new home as they try to further promote the sport of mixed martial arts in the CNMI.

The Trench Tech Gym will be relocating from its current location at the back of Moylan's Insurance in Garapan to Afetna Square in San Antonio, which will be their permanent home.

Alvarez, who is the brains behind the Trench Warz and Rites of Passage mixed martial arts series, said they decided to move the gym to accommodate the growing MMA community.

From Trench Tech's current location behind Moylan's Insurance in Garapan, the gym will move to Afetna Square or Babauta estate, which is located behind the Sablan Building in San Antonio.

Alvarez, co-owner Randy



JON PEREZ

Ben Babauta, second left, strikes a fighting pose with Trench Warz organizer Cuki Alvarez, left, while Randy Taylor, third left, and Tetsuji Kato look on during Tuesday's lease agreement at the Babauta estate behind the Sablan Building in San Antonio.

Taylor, co-instructor Tetsuji Kato, Ben Babauta—of the Babauta family estate—and several Trench Tech trainees were present during the lease signing on Tuesday afternoon at the Afetna facility.

"This is the fruit of our years of labor. Now we have a facility where we can hold MMA events and at the same time train our

TRENCH TECH

youth to keep them away from vices," said Alvarez.

Trench Tech's new home is a former garment factory behind the Immigration Building in San Antonio. "We only need some minor changes here. We have to adjust the lights since they are too low."

Alvarez said they have been clearing the facility of old equipment and other debris used in the former factory. "The boys [Trench Tech trainees] have been busy moving stuff

See **TRENCH** on Page 26

No major changes in 8-ball league standings

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Standings in the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League hardly changed with the SaipanCell Hustlers still dominating their opponents in games held in various bars on Saipan last week.

The only minor change that happened was that Jonny's Destroyers returned to second place with a one-game lead over Porky's Extremists.

The Hustlers further padded its lead in the standings with a league-best 53-10 mark followed by the Destroyers' 43-20 win-loss slate and the Extremists' 42-21 card.

A 7-0 win by the Hustlers over Godfather's Magas helped them improve their record as Jerry Soriano, Erwin Gomez, Joey Lucido, Robert Sanciangco, and Senen Pangilinan bested their opponents in the five singles and two doubles matches that they

See **NO MAJOR** on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Members of the SaipanCell Hustlers pose for a group photo before their game against Godfather's Magas last week in the Budweiser-SBA 8-Ball League at Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

Strong start for Red Sox, Dragons

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox and the Pacific Islands Club-Deloitte & Touche Dragons scored back-to-back wins last Saturday and on Monday to continue with their strong start in the 2008 season of the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The two-game sweep improved the Red Sox's record to

a league-best 5-0 mark to pace the 16-team field, just one game ahead of the also undefeated Happy Market-Ol'Aces

(4-0), which ended the SaipanCell Patriots' 42-game winning streak last week.

The Dragons, meanwhile, is currently in third place tying the National Office Supply-Survivors with similar 4-1 slates.

Their win-loss records improved a lot compared to their

last year's slates where they were at the lower rung of the standings.

On Monday, the Red Sox handed the Survivors its first loss with a 13-5 decision to complete a two-game sweep of their matches.

Twins Tommy and Thomas Reyes combined for 6-for-8 in batting and four runs. Tommy also had a triple and three RBIs, while Thomas had a double and a stolen base.

Jerome Reyes went 3-for-4 with three runs.

On Saturday, the Reyes trio was in full swing once again in the Red Sox's 19-0 blanking of Hustlers II.

Thomas went 2-for-4 scoring three runs including a two-run, inside-the-park home run that highlighted the Red Sox's eight-run second inning rally. He also had three RBIs.

Tommy went 2-for-3 scored twice, while Jerome went

See **STRONG** on Page 26

No Fear, Pikan Gaga earn finals berth

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No Fear and Pikan Gaga earned the first finals berth in the men's and women's divisions of the Indoor

Volleyball Winter League after scoring wins over separate opponents on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

No Fear earned the first finals slot in the men's side after a three-set 25-23, 24-26, 15-6 win over Ol'Aces.

The loss meant Ol'Aces will face the winner of the Menudo-

The Beach Jammers' Reina Malone stops the ball to set up a teammate in this file photo taken in one of their games in the women's division of the 2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

Fanians match, which was being played at press time.

Other results last Monday had Menudo eliminating CH-Hammer after a 25-20, 25-17, decision but fatigue forced Menudo to forfeit their second game against Fanians. The two met again yesterday but results are not yet available as of this writing.

In the women's division, See **NO FEAR** on Page 26

